



Take it for granted:  
Chinese study  
scholarships.

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"I use meaning  
to destroy  
meaning".

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A ride through  
the gates of  
Hell.

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## Pop in the park as second festival draws international stars

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## Biennial begins art buff bash



A visitor walks past one of the pieces on display at the Shanghai Biennial at the Shanghai Art Museum Wednesday. The two-month-long event, organized by the Ministry of Culture, showcases nearly 100 artworks including video, installation, sculpture and painting, from 25 countries.

IC Photo

## Cellmates to classmates: young offenders back at school

By Huang Daohen

Stripping off their gray prison clothes, walking out of their high-walled home and into a brightly lit classroom, 211 juvenile offenders from Beijing's Juvenile Correctional Insti-

tution were given a chance to be ordinary youngsters again this week as they went back to school to finish their nine-year compulsory education.

The prison system that allows juveniles to receive compulsory education

is pioneering work in Beijing. The project was first launched last year before beginning formally this year with seven junior high school classes, one for grade two and another six for grade one. The teaching model is gen-

erally the same as that of normal high school and each class has about 30 students. The whole course includes Chinese, Mathematics, Law, Psychology, English and PE. Students run to class in a strict drill fashion.

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babyface



# Pop in the park as second festival draws international stars

By Han Manman

The second Beijing Pop Festival, China's biggest annual international pop event, will be rocking Chaoyang Park this coming weekend (September 9 to 10), with 28 bands from all over the world belting it out on three stages.

The festival brings together bands from a range of genres, from the glam rock of Placebo to the Brit pop of Supergrass. Heavy metallers Sebastian Bach, the garage soul of DHAT (Japan), and retro electro rock

from Don Juan Dracula (Norway), mean there's something for every taste and none. The international acts will be joined by some of China's most innovative underground rock bands, including Muma, Reflector and Xie Tian Xiao.

As well as the big names, familiar headliners at many major events around the globe, this year's Beijing Pop Festival will also offer a chance to see rising artists such as New York's Johnny Hi-Fi, Detroit's Mozella and Swedish starlet Karin Park.

"The major international music festivals always present the big bands and artists, so we try to bring more and more bands with strong international reputations to Beijing Pop Festival every year," said festival organizer Jason Magnus, managing director of Rock For China Entertainment Ltd.

"But it does not mean that we only want established foreign bands," said Magnus, "We have also invited up-and-coming local bands, to give them a chance to share the stage with the big

names. We hope the festival can let the world outside China know more about the music scene."

As well as the music, the festival will feature 'Big Air in Beijing', a snowboarding event bringing some big names from the sport to Beijing for the first time.

A dance tent will showcase 12 top DJs, playing sounds from break-beat to drum and bass, chill-out soul grooves and house music. The organizer said the dance tent is a new addition to the festival that will help make this year's event even better.

## Stars gather for China tennis open

By Gan Tian

The two-week China Tennis Open will kick off tomorrow morning (Saturday), starting with the men's singles competition held at the Beijing Tennis Center.

The participation of many top Chinese players in the 2006 China Open, such as Zheng Jie, Yan Zi, Sun Tiantian, Li Na and Li Ting, has raised expectations that a Chinese player could win the event. But for that to happen they will have to beat the likes of top ranking Rafael Nadal, Nikolay Davydenko and David Nalbandian.

For tickets, call 6406 8888 or visit [www.piaowutong.com](http://www.piaowutong.com).

## Hot air balloons over the Great Wall

By Jackie Zhang

The Second China Balloon Tournament (CBT) will start tomorrow (Saturday) at Badaling Great Wall. Beijing is the first venue for the tournament. The teams will continue the competition in Shanghai, and three regions in the southern China.

Eighteen teams are taking part in the event, hosted by the Aero Sports Federation of China.

The teams will also put on flying displays and balloon parades.

## Xizhimen Bridge under repair this weekend

By Gan Tian

Beijing's most run-down fly-over, Xizhimen North Bridge, will be repaired this weekend. Beijing Municipal Committee of Communication announced that the inner ring pass of Xizhimen North Bridge will be blocked for 56 hours, from 10pm on Friday to 6am on Monday.

Because of the construction, the road from Xizhimen Road to Jishuitan will be blocked for two days, Da'anzhonghutong Street and Qian Banbijie Street will be turned into a one-way street and vehicles will be banned from turning left into Guanyuanqiao West.

Traffic in the area will be diverted down seven main roads: the Second South Ring Road, Caishikounan Dajie Road, Changchunjie Road, Lianguangjie Road, Subway Road, Fuchengmennei Dajie and Ping'an Road. Over 100 posters will be put up to warn people about the works and 147 policemen will be drafted in to control the traffic.

Five buses will be affected by the construction work. They are the number 44 (Xiaohuan), 820 (Nei), 618, 800 (Nei) and 939.

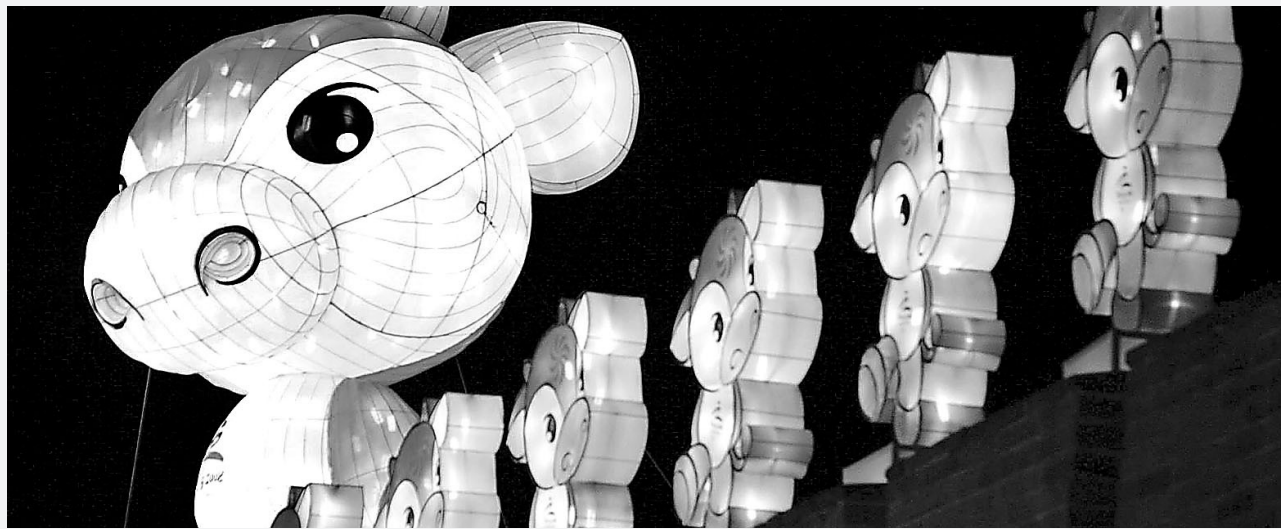
Drivers are advised to follow these routes:

Cars taking the Second West Ring Road from south to north can take Fuchengmennei Dajie, Ping'an Road, Xizhimennei Dajie, Xinjiekou Dajie, or Caochanglu Road instead.

Cars taking Chegongzhuang Dajie from Guanyuan West to north can take Shoutinanlu Road, Sanlihelu Road, Zhanlanguan Road (Exhibition Road), Xizhimenwai Dajie, or Fuchengmenwai Dajie instead.

Pedestrians and cars in the inner ring bridge of Xizhimen North Bridge can take Xizhimennei Dajie.

## Cheery calf sends good wishes for paralympics



Fu Niu Lele, the official mascot of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Photo by Tong Wei

By He Jianwei

Fu Niu Lele, the official mascot of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, was unveiled Wednesday evening in a ceremony at the foot of the Badaling section of the Great Wall, marking the beginning of a two-year countdown to the opening

of the games.

'Fu Niu Lele' is a happy young calf. 'Niu' means cow in Chinese, while 'Fu' indicates luck and auspiciousness, and 'Lele', happiness.

The mascot will send the good wishes of the Chinese people, for happiness, peace

and good luck, to people with a disability in all parts of the world, said Liu Qi, president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) praised the mascot. "The 2008 Beijing

Paralympic Games mascot epitomizes another side of sport. On the one hand, sport is about medal-winning athleticism but on the other, sport and participation in sport, bring happiness, fun and enjoyment to people all over the world," said Philip Craven, president of the IPC.

## Breakthrough on Olympic subway line

By He Jianwei

The tunnel for the new Olympic branch line of the Beijing Subway was successfully linked to Xionghuandao station, where it meets the existing Line 10, Tuesday morning. Workers will begin laying track on October 1.

Xionghuandao station, situated between the north fourth and third ring roads at the junction of Beichen Lu and Beitucheng Lu, will be a main transit hub during the 2008 games. Passengers will be able to change here for the new Olympic Branch Line, which will serve a number of Olympic stadiums.

The Olympic branch line is 5.9 kilometers long. It serves four stations, the Olympic Sports Center, Olympic Park, Forest Park, and Xionghuandao.

Final work linking the Olympic branch line and Line 10 will be completed by February 2008.

## Olympic organizers launch 'smile' campaign

By Tom Mackenzie

Beijing residents have been asked to smile more as part of a campaign to improve manners in the city in the run up to the Olympics.

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games want residents to flash their smiles to make the city more attractive to the thousands of foreign visitors who are expected to flock to the capital between now and August 2008.

"We hope Beijing residents will join in the smile campaign to turn the city into a city of smiles," Liu Jian, one of the committee members, said on Monday.

"For many people who will not be volunteers, they are expected to show their good manners and do what they can to make the city a better place," Liu said.

Security guard Liu Zheng Xiang, 20, who works outside a government building in Chaoyang, said he supported the campaign.

"Smiling is really important because it makes the people around you feel more comfortable," he said. "When no one smiles the world seems a very cold place. No matter what jobs people do they should smile."

But cabbie Liu Bao Quan, 47, said trying to force people to smile was not the answer.

"I agree that it's important that people working in the service industry smile because we have a responsibility to make people feel comfortable," he said, "but I don't think people should be forced to smile—that's worse than not smiling at all."

English teacher Chris Greenwood, 26, from the UK, said his

impression of Beijingers was that they were smiley enough.

"Beijingers are perfectly friendly and, with even more foreigners to giggle at during the Olympics, the organizers have little to worry about," he said. "One of the best recipes for laughter is a 'blue sky day' so perhaps they can channel their energies to reducing pollution instead."

With the Olympic Games just two years away, concerns about "inappropriate" behaviour, such as spitting, queue-jumping and littering, are frequently raised by the organizers.

To address the concern, Beijing's government distributed 1.5 million copies of *A General Textbook on Civility and Propriety* earlier this year, which aimed at teaching people good manners.



# Measures taken to avert autumn bird flu risks

By Qiu Jiaoning

China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) will start a new drive for bird flu inspections to safeguard against potential risks as some birds begin their annual migrations, which may bring them into contact with domestic poultry, said vice minister Zhang Baowen on Tuesday.

Li Jinxiang, deputy director of the veterinary bureau under the MOA, said that a total of 4.88 billion domestic fowl had been vaccinated by the end of June this year. China will try its best to vaccinate almost her entire annual stock of 15 billion

poultry, the world's largest domestic fowl population.

Li said that China is facing some difficulty controlling the spread of bird flu diseases and detecting outbreaks. Tests have shown some migratory birds are still carrying the virus and some waterfowl have not fallen ill despite carrying the virus, two factors which may have contributed to a spread of the disease. "In some remote and mountainous areas, there are still unreached areas and gaps in vaccination, and we still have difficulty vaccinating poultry in some localities," Li added.

Close proximity between people

and birds can allow the virus to spread to human populations, but it is difficult to change the present situation where this is common in China, said Zhang Baowen. Much of China's poultry farming happens in family backyards, and farmers are too poor to change to large-scale, industrialized methods.

So far, 21 people in China have contracted bird flu, of whom 14 died. The last outbreak of bird flu among poultry occurred in early August in Changsha city, Hunan province. Some international organizations have made the criticism that almost none of

the human cases of bird flu in China were preceded by reports of outbreaks in poultry.

Although China hasn't shared any samples of bird flu virus taken from animals since 2004, the country agreed to share up to 20 virus samples from poultry to be analyzed in WHO-linked laboratories.

"When viral strains cross international borders, special protocols are needed and we are working to complete those," Li said, adding that China will try to conform to WHO (World Health Organization) standards for international transfers of the virus.

## New behavior training for zoo animals

By Huang Daohen

Beijing's city zoo showed off the latest results of its animal behavior-training program by successfully conducting an inspection of a Giant Panda, gorilla, penguin and other animals on Sunday.

Animals often become sick and require medical care or injections but when staff try to help they become confrontational and can end up harming themselves.

Earlier this year, a project was launched at the zoo with the aim of reducing harm to the zoo animals when they are inspected or given injections.

The animals are trained to weigh themselves on a platform scale, where their temperature and blood pressure is also measured.

## Everyone kungfu fighting at Shaolin temple contest finale

By Han Manman

Areas of Shaolin Temple closed to the public for more than 1,500 years will open tomorrow (September 9) for the final stages of a TV search for a kungfu star.

The temple, on Henan's Songshan Mountain, is considered the home of kungfu. Recently it has played host to 36 martial artists who have been preparing for the final stages of a TV kungfu competition with nine days of secluded practice.

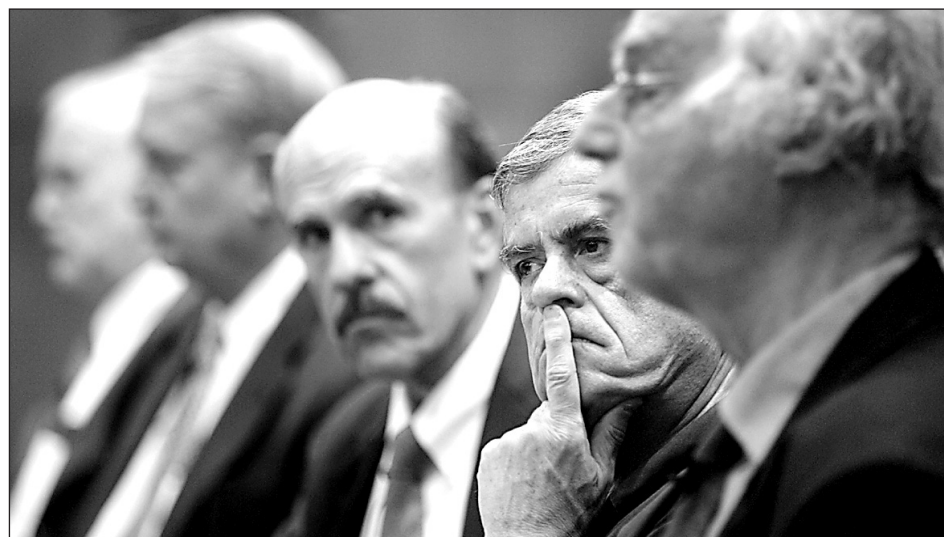
The contestants, 16 from China, and 20 chosen in selection contests in Germany, Italy, the US, Australia and Russia, have been living with Shaolin's monks since September 1, meditating, honing their fighting skills and studying traditional Buddhist culture. They have been given access to closed areas of the temple and seen how the world-famous fighting monks live and practice their religion and martial arts.

Tian Jianhong, director of Shaolin Temple Publicity Company, said the contestants have also been taught by the temple's 18 'arhats', senior teachers who have achieved perfection in meditation and martial skills, learning unique kungfu skills and hearing lectures on Buddhist thought and kungfu history. The 18 arhats will challenge the contestants during Saturday's ceremony, testing what they have learned in their nine-day retreat.

The contestants got to the final stage of a 40-week competition by coming in the top three in the six international eliminators or one of the five events held in China. Three overall winners will be named the world's top kungfu stars. Their prize will be the opportunity to perform in a movie and TV series, both to be called *Legends of Monk Warriors From Shaolin Temple*.

Abbot Shi Yongxin said, "The Shaolin temple is the cradle of kungfu, which brings with it the responsibility of promoting the art. This television show will provide entertainment by displaying traditional Chinese kungfu to the world."

## Greatest minds think China



The Nobel Laureates Beijing Forum brought leading minds, including Hartmut Michel, Ferid Murad, Louis J. Ignarro, Aaron Ciechanover and Robert Huber, to the capital.

CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

Dozens of leading thinkers from across the globe, including seven Nobel laureates, gathered in Beijing this week to discuss China's and the global economy at the three-day Nobel Laureates Beijing Forum 2006 forum.

Sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, it was the second such forum after the

first proved a resounding success last year. The seven Nobel laureates attending the forum were Chinese-born Lee Tsungdao, winner of the 1957 Nobel Prize for physics, Robert Mundell, Robert Huber and Hartmut Michel, who shared the 1988 chemistry prize, Ferid Murad and Louis Ignarro, who shared the 1998 medicine prize, and Aaron Ciechanover, winner

of the 2004 chemistry prize.

They gave speeches on topics covering the future of China's life sciences, healthcare, DNA research and transgenic techniques, harmonious development and humanity. The city mayor, Wang Qishan, said at the opening ceremony, "The Nobel Prize forum is a platform for us to learn about the world."

## Tallest wooden pagoda still standing after 950 years

By He Jianwei

The world's oldest and tallest wooden pagoda, Sakyamuni Pagoda in Yingxian County in Shanxi Province, celebrated its 950th anniversary last Tuesday. Relics of the Buddha found in the pagoda in 1974 went on display on Monday and Tuesday as part

of the celebrations.

The pagoda, built entirely of wood without using any nails, is part of the Fogong (Buddha's Palace) Temple in Yingxian County, 380 kilometers southwest of Beijing. It was built in 1056, during the Liao Dynasty, which ruled northern China

between 916 and 1125. The pagoda stands 67.3 meters tall and is 30.3 meters in diameter at its base.

The pagoda has survived numerous tribulations down the years, including earthquakes, storms, lightning strikes and wars.

## Intangible cultural heritage touches audience

By Jackie Zhang

A show and exhibition featuring 518 performances or displays of China's intangible cultural heritage opened yesterday at the second venue of a nationwide tour, Shijingshan Park in Beijing.

Folk artists gave performances at the opening ceremony and exhibition pavilions were set up in the

square in front of the park, displaying information on traditional cultural heritage, much of which is now in danger of being lost.

Performances and exhibitions showed traditional culture from different provinces and regions, including Zhejiang, Hebei, Fujian, and Guizhou.

The exhibition is being run

by the Chinese Culture Promotion Society (CCPS). It first went on show at Yongdingmen last Friday. The exhibition at Shijingshan Park will last till next Monday, and then move on to Haidian and Xuanwu Districts. "The next destination city is possibly in Shandong Province," said Zhang Haizhen, from the CCPS.

### Brief news

#### More overseas investment

Some US\$12 billion of Chinese money was invested in over 160 countries and regions around the world last year, exceeding US\$10 billion for the first time, the Ministry of Commerce announced this week.

#### Foreigners take billions home

Foreign investors in China have remitted a total profit of some US\$58 billion to their home countries in the five years since China's accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, Yi Xiaozhun, vice Minister of Commerce stated this Wednesday.

#### Coal mine deaths rise

A total of 14 major accidents at coal mines in the capital have seen a death toll of 20 people in the first eight months of this year, four times of that of the same period of last year, according to the Municipal Administration of Coal Mine Safety.

#### Natural disasters affect 300 million

Natural disasters including typhoons, drought and flood hit some 300 million people across the country last month, leaving over 660 dead and some 170 people missing, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced this week.

#### One hundred million seniors

The number of people aged over 65 rose to over 100 million by the end of last year, accounting for some eight percent of China's population, according to a report from the latest population sampling survey.

#### One trillion on western infrastructure

The country has spent a total of one trillion yuan (US\$125 billion) on building infrastructure in western China in the past six years, Wang Jinxiang, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission stated this week.

(By Jiang Xubo)



# China's first AIDS primary school opens

By Han Manman

Ten AIDS children have started their study life this week after the first exclusive primary school for children affected by AIDS opened in a hospital in the northern Shanxi province last Friday.

The children, aged from six to 11, acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission and have lost their mothers. To help these children get access to an education, Linfen Hospital for Infectious Disease funded the primary school, called Red Ribbon, within its AIDS Treatment Center. The hospital took counsel with the children's guardians and got their approval before recruiting them. All of the school's students registered of their own free will.

"As the Chinese government regulates AIDS children having the right to enter regular schools, we can't all discriminate. But not all schools could really accept them, and even if the children were taken, discrimination by their classmates would be unavoidable," Li Xuejun, director of the AIDS Treatment Center said, adding, "The best way is to set up a special school for them."

Li said the hospital provides free accommodation for children who are also receiving regular treatment at the same time. What the school buys for the children is the same teaching material issued by China's education



Holding classes in Red Ribbon Primary School.

Photo provided by RRPS

authorities as used by other primary schools, and Red Ribbon has been equipped with adequate teaching facilities as well as professional teachers and three live-in teachers who can nurse the children. The school teaches from grade one to four.

"We hired three live-in teachers who are also affected by AIDS," Li said, "Because these teachers are affected, they can better understand the children and help them overcome mental barriers."

Linfen Hospital for Infectious

Disease has treated more than 300 AIDS patients including many children. According to Li, there are over 60 AIDS children in Shanxi. Beside the first group of 10 children, more are expected to enter Red Ribbon Primary School (RRPS) in the future.



CFP Photo

## Authorities order closure of traditional school

By Chu Meng

A private school that has been teaching in a traditional Chinese pedagogical style based on the recitation of classics has been branded illegal by the country's top education authority, just a few days before the new academic year.

The Ministry of Education warned that Meng Mu Tang, a private, full-time school or 'sishu' in Shanghai using traditional Chinese teaching methods as an alternative to regular primary schooling, was running against China's newly-revised Law on Compulsory Education.

### Law

"It is illegal to send children to full-time sishu, as the law clearly states that Chinese children have to enter State-approved schools to receive compulsory education at the age of six," Zhang Wen, deputy director of the ministry's legislative affairs office said. "The school's teaching methods and curriculum also contravene the law."

The school was set up last year, attracting a fair amount of public interest. It is named after the mother of ancient Chinese philosopher Mencius. The school has 12 students, drawn from Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong and Shanghai.

The students, aged between four and 12, study Chinese by reciting Confucian classics such as the Book of Changes (Yi Jing) and the Analects (Lunyu). English is taught using similar methods, with pupils reciting the works of Shakespeare. Mathematics is also taught at the school, but is given a low priority.

### 'Bad students'

Lu Liwei, one of the school's founders and teachers, responded to critics, "Our school is a private family academy, not a full-time school." She said her students were all regarded as bad students in regular schools, because they did not fit into the exam-orientated education system.

"We only want to provide them with a different education and promote our traditional culture. Each student's annual tuition of 30,000 yuan was just enough to cover costs, as the school is a boarding school," an angry Lu added.

Jin Shizhen, aged nine, was one of the first students to be enrolled in the school. He says he has made good progress in the academy.

### Appropriate

Shanghai Municipal Education Commission ordered the school to shut down by the end of this month. But the school made an announcement early this month on behalf of all children's parents saying it would apply for an administrative reconsideration and sue the commission for depriving children of their right to receive education at home.

## Development bottleneck found in Beijing's community medical services

By Qiu Jiaoning / Chu Meng

In the run-up to the new community-based health-care system, Beijing will invest two billion yuan to set up 360 community medical service centers and 2,700 community clinics by the end of 2008, according to an announcement by Beijing Health Bureau.

But these are hard times for the development of Beijing's community medical services, because they have to remove development bottlenecks such as a lack of capital, talent and facilities.

### Lacking

Wu Yonghao, deputy-director of the Community Health Care Division under the Beijing Health Bureau said that community-based health-care system of Beijing involves more than 30,000 medical workers, while less than 8,000 of them can meet the requirements for community medical service.

The system needs at least 20,000 qualified and experienced personnel, meaning a shortfall of more than 12,000. It is especially difficult to recruit qualified general practitioners

or family doctors for the system as a shortage of such talent has reached 7,000 alone, said Wu.

Wu suggested some solutions to the problem such as special training for current workers, and hiring retired experts from famous hospitals.

Gu Yuan from Chinese Medical Association's family medicine branch said that it is very important to increase pay and benefits for family doctors and attract them to communities.

Jiang Guodong, head of Chaoyangmen Community Medical Service Center said that the center is operating on borrowings, which is a common difficulty for many community medical institutions. Their goal is to provide convenient, economical and suitable medical services for urban residents, but they need funds to improve their facilities to cope with the increasing demand, Jiang said.

It is of great significance to ensure that the community medical centers and community clinics are for public welfare rather than private profits, so they need more fund aid from

government, said Jiang.

"We plan to improve our facilities with government funds and extend working hours to convenience more residents," said Yang Zhenwei, head of Beijing's Jianwai Community Clinic. According to Yang, such medical stations can provide basic medical service in the neighborhoods, especially for elderly and disabled people and patients with chronic diseases.

### Distrust

Distrust of small community medical centers and stations is another problem. Even though citizens usually have to spend one or two hours making an appointment in an A-level state-owned hospitals such as Beijing Union Medical College Hospital, and hours longer for an appointment with a senior doctor, citizens are still reluctant to go to community hospitals.

However good news now can be heard from some community hospitals. Some offer much more professional medical services, and others can help citizens in ways that big A-level ones cannot. Located in the city's Youwai Residential Area,

Youwai Hospital has recently opened a new clinic for mental health consultations.

"Seeing a doctor here, you can avoid embarrassment. If I go to those big hospitals, there will be more people who will make me nervous. So I am very willing to get treated here," a middle-aged patient surnamed Li said. "Doctors can also drop by your home and provide service to you. And it is much cheaper."

So far the community clinic has 10 mental health consultants. Zhang Hui is one of them. He says recently more people have been coming. "Now we see about 10 patients everyday. And the number is increasing. After working here for some time, I have found that such consultation is really needed by residents," he said.

Yang Fengchi, a mental health expert at Capital Medical University says community hospitals provide a great solution for residents' minor health queries.

Now a plan to send more mental health professionals into communities throughout the capital city is being carried out.



# Nearly half Chinese can't speak Mandarin

Beijing, September 5 (AP / mb.com.ph) – Nearly half of China's 1.3 billion people can't speak Mandarin, the country's official language, a news report said.

An Education Ministry study found only 53 percent of the public can speak the version of Mandarin known as putonghua, or 'the common language, the China Daily said.

The government has promoted putonghua since 1956 as a common language to bind

together a vast country with dozens of languages and dialects. It is used in schools, government meetings and for television and radio television broadcasts.

"Without a common language, people are unable to understand each other. This has become an obstacle to China's social and economic development," Yuan Zhongrui, director of the ministry's putonghua popularization department, was quoted as saying.

## Interview with the editor:

*When I first read the report, I told myself China is so big and diverse, it is understandable that so many people cannot speak Mandarin.*

*It's the same case in many much smaller countries like the Philippines. We have many dialects and many people, especially those have not received much education, cannot speak English. But I realized it can be a prob-*

*lem. Culture and language is an important tool to unify.*

*Also, the phenomena stands against the fact that many foreign students are interested in learning Mandarin. I believe your government will take measures to solve the problem, sooner or later.*

— **Maria Pangnalgan,**  
senior editor,  
**Manila Bulletin Online**

## 30 million tons beer consumed last year

Beijing, September 2 (PTI) – Chinese people consumed over 30 million tons of beer last year with per capita consumption of 24.2 liters, an industry association said.

China has been the world's largest producer and consumer of beer for four consecutive years, alcoholic drinks industry association secretary, Wang Yancai said.

As living standards of ordinary Chinese continued to rise, beer consumption had soared.

China had more than two million people working in breweries, with the production value exceeding US\$50.3 billion in 2005.



China is catching up as a major brewer with its light, high quality beers.

Photo provided by sina.com

## Interview with the reporter:

*I was very impressed by the figures of the beer production in China and wrote this story.*

*I don't drink beer personally because of my religion. But since I have stayed in China for a decade, many of my friends highly appreciate Chinese beers, such as Tsingtao and Yanjing. They say the local beers, in Beijing at least, are high quality.*

*Foreign brands are also available and popular in Beijing, like Fosters from Australia. They provide different tastes and more choices.*

— **Anil K. Joseph,**  
PTI Beijing

## Beijing considers pet laws



Rural residents wait for vaccines for their dogs in a suburb of Beijing.

CFP Photo

Beijing, September 5 (UPI / RedOrbit.com) – China, concerned about rising cases of pet abuse and abandonment in its cities, plans to pass laws on keeping pets in its capital.

The Beijing Applied Law Research Institute will soon pub-

lish a study to help to draft the laws for the city, Xinhua reports.

The ways to ensure pets and people live in harmony deserve careful research, Wang Sen with the research institute told Xinhua. He said the growing problem involves issues

relating to security, pet trade management, pet epidemic prevention and pet-related goods management.

The report says Chinese cities are experiencing a 'pet craze'. Beijing alone is home to more than one million dogs.

## Interview with the editor:

*I don't know whether we have a federal law supervising pets in the US. But I do know that some states have their own laws. These laws focus more on preventing abuse and abandon-*

*ment of pets, because they are more vulnerable.*

*I personally have had some unpleasant experiences, such as dogs' barking and dogs not on leads.*

*Owners are the key here. We should have more love, care and responsibility, both for our pets and other people.*

— **Claudia Sahalni,**  
editor, RedOrbit.com

## Beijing to overhaul 6,000 liaison offices

Beijing, September 5 (Asia News Network) – The central government is set to overhaul nearly 6,000 Beijing liaison offices of local governments and major state-owned enterprises amid mounting criticism over their alleged involvement in corruption.

The Government Offices Administration of the State Council, China's Cabinet, is drafting a detailed plan on their restructuring which may be unveiled in the fourth quarter of this year, the weekly Economic Observer reported.

The Ministry of Supervision and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China Central Committee are also working to better regulate the offices. Some 50 offices represent the provinces, major cities and top state-owned enterprises, another 520 the cities, and about 5,000 the counties.

The offices are facing "the biggest survival crisis in half a century, and some of them will probably be shut down," the report said.

The overhaul is believed to be prompted by observations made by Li Jinhua, the country's top auditor, who reportedly accused the offices of breeding corruption.

Some of the agencies are entrusted by local governments to cosy up to senior officials in central government ministries for financial benefits, Li said at the end of last year.

Over the past few years, top officials of local government offices in Beijing have been charged with facilitating corrupt deals between local and central government officials.

Earlier this year, Wu Guanzheng, secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, ordered that supervision of regional government offices in Beijing be one of the commission's major tasks in 2006.

There were 186 offices representing cities in 1991, but the figure swelled to 426 in 2002. The first local government office in Beijing was set up in 1949 by the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The number of agencies based in Beijing will top 10,000 if those set up by various associations, universities and enterprises are included.

A website, zhujingban.com, has been co-funded by some local government agencies in Beijing to promote their presence.

Although the Beijing municipal government once stopped the registration of local government offices in the city, it lifted the ban in 2003 for fear of losing the huge economic benefits generated by the agencies, the Economic Observer report said.



# New rules for foreigners buying property

Beijing, September 6 (Reuters) – China has issued detailed rules on the foreign exchange aspects of foreigners' purchases of property, filling out a regulation issued in July that placed restrictions on who could buy real estate.

The rules, issued by the State Administration of Foreign

Exchange and the Construction Ministry, say that foreigners must obtain approval before repatriating the proceeds of property sales.

They also require that foreign investors that want to take over or acquire stakes in Chinese property firms must buy them in cash, and that banks and local foreign

exchange administrations step up supervision over property purchases involving foreign currency.

Other aspects of the directive mainly clarify the procedures for carrying out the earlier directive, which stipulated that only foreign entities with offices in China and foreign individuals who have lived

in China for at least a year could buy property on their own, and that it had to be for their own use.

Under the rules, foreign firms or individuals that want to buy property not for their own use must establish a locally registered investment company and buy through that company.

## Coal olefin conversion

By He Jianwei

China's pharmaceutical giant Sino Biopharmaceutical had agreed with Shaanxi provincial government to invest five billion yuan (US\$628 million) in Yulin to build China's first dimethyl ether/methanol-to-olefin (DMTO) project to convert coal into low-carbon olefin.

The project will have an annual capacity of three million tons and require 22 billion yuan (US\$2.75 billion) investment. The operation will start in the first quarter of 2007.

## Fly direct to Athens

By Chen Shasha

A direct air link between Athens and Beijing is set to open, Mochalis Liapis, Minister for Transport and Communications in Greece, announced Monday, with Yang Yuanyuan, China's Administration of Civil Aviation Authority and Li Jiayang, Chairman of Air China.

Traffic between the two countries has been growing by 20 percent, reaching 65,800 passengers in 2005.

## FedEx granted more flights

By Qiu Jiaoning

FedEx Express has been granted four additional weekly flights to China by the US Department of Transportation, bringing its total to 30, according to an announcement by FedEx.

The additional flights, into effect in March 2007, will allow FedEx Express to operate more all-cargo flights to and from China than any other US airliner.

## First Shangri-La hotel in Japan

Shangri-La International Hotel Management Ltd., Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, has signed a lease agreement with Mori Trust Co. Ltd. to fit-out and manage the Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo, marking the group's Japanese debut.

Scheduled to open by March 1, 2009, the Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo is located in the Marunouchi district, beside the Tokyo Station.

The Imperial Palace and the Nihonbashi area are a 10-minute walk away. The hotel's prime location is expected to attract local corporate patrons, discerning diners, and international business and leisure travelers.

## Russian gold turns heads



A model shows off a gold crown set with diamonds at the Russian Jewellery Fair held in Moscow, September 6.

Xinhua Photo

## TV goes mobile



Visitors get a close look at mobile devices able to receive TV signals during the Beijing International Radio, TV and Film Equipment Exhibition 2006 held in Beijing last week.

(AP Photo)

By Gan Tian

Beijing citizens can watch TV programs or listen to the radio through mobile phones, digital cameras, and MP4s which support Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) technology launched by Radio Beijing on Wednesday.

The DAB system provides digital audio and video programs to the mobiles, including 12 Radio Beijing channels, CCTV News and BTv1 broadcasting.

Wang Liang, president of

Radio Beijing, confirmed that China National Radio and China Radio International will take part in this system.

Programs such as government affairs, daily life, the city's story, and traffic and weather condition reports will be transmitted on the DAB system. The service also provides hotel and hospital information, according to Beijing Municipal Government. The service is temporarily available within the sixth ring road.

## Overseas investment hits new high

Beijing, September 4 (Xinhua) – China's direct investment overseas hit a new high of US\$12.26 billion in 2005, the Ministry of Commerce said.

Of that sum, US\$3.8 billion came from capital stocks, US\$3.2 billion from reinvested profits and the remaining US\$5.26 billion were invested through other forms.

China's aggregated direct overseas investment has reached US\$57.2 billion, 0.59 percent of the world's total.

Mergers and acquisitions accounted for half of China's overseas direct investment. Forty-three percent of the investment was in the form of lending to overseas businesses.

Eighty-one percent went to Cayman Island, Hong Kong and other tax havens. Latin America overtook Asia as the No. 1 destination for Chinese investment.

East China's Zhejiang Province finds 949 local companies investing abroad, representing 23.6 percent of the total.

## Penguin to march on China

By David Drakeford

British publishing group Penguin announced that it would release classic works of literature such as *Oliver Twist*, *Moby Dick* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in China. For some of these titles it will be the first time they have been available in the Chinese language.

China is now the world's fastest growing book market, increasing by an estimated US\$300 million a year. Four hundred new titles are launched every day with only 6 percent being translations.

Penguin, founded in 1935, has previously sold rights to English-language titles, this will be its first venture into China under its own logo and 'black classics' format. They plan to establish the Penguin brand with high quality translations and expert introductions.

The first ten novels are due to go on sale in November under a licensing agreement with Chongqing Publishing Group. Fifteen more titles are scheduled for release in May 2007.

China's 573 publishing houses produced 6.4 billion books, including 128,578 new titles, in 2005.

## New Oriental IPO raises US\$112.5 mln

New York, September 6 (Reuters) – China's New Oriental Education & Technology Group Inc., a provider of foreign language instruction, raised US\$112.5 million in New York Stock Exchange.

The 7.5 million American Depositary Share (ADS) offering represents 21 percent stake in the company and was sold for US\$15 per ADS.

## Jingkelong plans US\$76 mln HK IPO

Hong Kong, September 6 (Reuters) – The Beijing-based supermarket chain Jingkelong Co. Ltd. plans to issue shares between HK\$3.90 and HK\$4.50 and raise up to HK\$594 million (US\$76 million) on the Hong Kong's Growth Enterprise Market.

Jingkelong operates 169 stores in Beijing. It may issue a further 19.8 million H-shares on exercise of an over-allotment option.

## 7-Eleven to shut outlets

Shanghai, September 6 (The Nation) – Charoen Pokphand (CP) 7-Eleven Plc from Thailand is to close some of its unprofitable Lotus supercenters in Shanghai by this year.

CP 7-Eleven holds a 30 percent stake in Yangtze Supermarket Investment and operates 43 branches in China.

7-Eleven is operated by four overseas investors in China, namely Ito-Yokato for the Beijing market, Hong Kong's 7-Eleven for Guangzhou, Taiwan's Uni-President and CP Group from Thailand for Shanghai market.

## Telstra buys China's SouFun

Taipei, September 4 (vnunet.com) – Australian telecoms giant Telstra has paid US\$254m to buy a controlling 51 percent stake in Chinese website SouFun.com.

SouFun is a news and information portal and business directory aimed at China's real estate sector and related markets. It is planning an IPO on NASDAQ.

Telstra expects the new subsidiary to generate pre-tax earnings of \$14 million in 2007.

## Official e-business site opened

Beijing, September 6 (Xinhua) – 'China Suppliers' (www.china.cn), the largest government-run e-business website, was officially put into operation this week.

The new site, with the support of the Ministry of Commerce, targets small businesses that want to access international markets.

In 2005, China's on-line trade reached 650 billion yuan (US\$81 billion) in sales, with 1.53 million domestic companies engaged in e-business.



# 'Crocodile Hunter' died doing what he loved

By David Fickling  
(The Guardian)

The depth of mourning for crocodile hunter Steve Irwin almost appears to have taken his fellow Australians by surprise. Every public figure in the country seems to have come out with a tribute and interest in the story that has jammed news websites all day.

My girlfriend, who grew up not far from Irwin's Australia Zoo in Queensland's Sunshine Coast, can remember the site being a minor tourist curiosity in the years before The Crocodile Hunter shot him to international fame.

But the scale of Irwin's celebrity often baffled and confounded Australians. His programs rarely received much airtime domestically, and metropolitan opinion often felt he presented a backward image of the country – a throwback to an earlier age when fine dining meant meat pies at a rugby league match, and cultural activity was limited to post-work drinking binges.

Australians these days take pleasure in looking down on the unsophistication of their former colonial masters in the old world. It's understandable, then, that Irwin – with his A\$10 (US\$8) haircut, vivid strine and wardrobe full of khaki Stubbies – often seemed like a long-lost relative who turns up drunk at a wedding.

Caricature that he was, Irwin was a last link to an Australia whose traditions of egalitarianism and unpretentious good humor are rapidly disappearing. The outpouring of grief that has followed his death seems to be as much mourning for a lost nation as for a dead naturalist. Irwin expressed a little of that when he mused on his local unpopularity in a TV interview a few years back:

[Australians] actually see a little bit of themselves when they see me, and they find that a little embarrassing. I'm fair dinkum, like kangaroos and Land Cruisers, winged keels and bloody flies! I think we've lost all that. I think we've all become very, sort of, money people.



Irwin has been famous around the world for getting up close and personal with nature.  
CFP Photo

## Comments:

*His death is a tragedy for his young family but some of his stunts were incredibly dangerous and showed little respect for the animals. He paid the ultimate price.*

– Fishman

*The programs from his Zoo showed how much he respected animals – they were the focus of his life. He's an icon.*

– Bigmal

*Steve was the ultimate Aussie, a fair dinkum bloke whose enthusiasm for animals was unbounded. He died doing what he loved. Better that than fade away.*

– theanaloguekid

*Irony is, of course, after a career messing around with bloody great crocodiles and highly venomous snakes this was a relatively straightforward dive. Stingrays are pretty shy and barbs rarely kill humans. The lad was very unlucky but perhaps it had run out on him.*

– JimmyP

*I'm really sad about this – but, sorry, it's no surprise. He courted death all the time.*

*My cousin who's a diver got pierced in the leg by a stingray. He was disabled for months. Some creatures need to be left alone. They need respect.*

– alphageminorum

*This guy was full of life and left a great testament to being 'alive' and interested in life.*

– villas1

*I haven't shed a tear over someone's death since that of my own father. Steve Irwin was more than a great Australian, he was a great human, who had a unique and eccentric talent and, more importantly, was a great family man. Rest in peace Steve, you are a wonderful positive inspiration to millions of children.*

– cronullachris

*Steve Irwin raised awareness of all animals, of the damage that is being done to our planet and brought welcome attention and many tourism dollars to Australia. I find it offensive and unbelievable that so many have sledged him when at the end of the day, he was a man doing what he loved and what he believed in.*

– Sherbre

## Japanese celebrate male heir birth

The Associated Press

"With shouts of 'Banzai,' Japanese celebrated the birth Wednesday of the imperial family's first male heir since the 1960s, a development that squelched hopes of reform to allow women on the throne," Joseph Coleman, Associated Press writer, reports.

Princess Kiko, wife of Prince Akishino, gave birth to a boy by Caesarean section at a Tokyo hospital. The boy is Emperor Akihito's first grandson and is third in the line to the throne, behind brothers Crown Prince Naruhito and Akishino.

The news was cheered by many Japanese, who maintain an enduring respect for the imperial family more than 60 years after Emperor Hirohito renounced his status as a divinity at the end of World War II.

Newspapers published extra editions, supporters gathered outside the hospital where the 39-year-old Kiko gave birth, and TV networks ran continuous coverage on the delivery. Fans shouted 'Banzai' – 'Ten Thousand Years' – outside the imperial palace.

The boy was born at 8:27am and weighed five pounds, 10 ounces, the Imperial Household Agency said. Both the infant and his mother were in good condition.

## Comments:

*Congratulations. An Emperor is born. Good luck to all.*

– e pluribus eunum

*No need to stick to male heirs. Princess Aiko should be the next heir. She'd make a great empress. Beautiful at that, too. And why should the next monarch be from the same 'bloodline'?*

– hivviruz

*No pressure on that kid, I hope. This poor baby is going to have so much pressure on his little life. I hope he's not stupid or disabled. I don't think those things are allowed for a royal heir!*

– the edge of middle

*Fantastic news! There should always be a male on the throne. No ifs, ands, or buts.*

– norilsktextil

*Why are people fascinated by royalty? In the days when the people believed the rulers to be godlike, it was understandable. But now? Royal families have no special intelligence, they are not physically superior, so why the fascination? Because so many people want to be subservient? Do people really have that little self-respect?*

– im2ez2c

*Interesting, but doesn't really matter. The reigning emperor of Japan is as useless as the British royal family. All of them are just figure heads. They can't really control anything so it really doesn't matter.*

– mne202001

*There's another alternative. Japan could just abolish the monarchy.*

– willingthrall

## Weekly topics

### Newsweek (US)

1. Danny Pearl's parents seek unity
2. In praise of my Japanese cell phone
3. Phone-records scandal at HP
4. GOP fall strategy: terror, Iraq war
5. Lessons from Ford's cash scramble

### New York Times (US)

1. GOP sets aside work on immigration

2. GOP seen to be in peril of losing House
3. 9/11 miniseries is criticized as inaccurate and biased
4. Afghan symbol for change becomes a symbol of failure
5. New Republic suspends an editor for attacks on blog

### Sydney Morning Herald (Aus)

1. Storms bring death, miss dam
2. Humankind is ocean's deadliest, Irwin told colleague

3. It was a place to despair: kidnap girl
4. No fuss, says dad, he was an ordinary bloke
5. Call to destroy Irwin death video

### Toronto Star (Canada)

1. US housing boom goes pop
2. Scientists fear global warming vicious cycle
3. Lawyer Shoniker jailed
4. Seal hunt days numbered: critics

5. Memories of Regent Park inspire song

### Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Steve Irwin killed by sting-ray
2. The wifely duty
3. Hizbollah 'arming Gaza for new war'
4. 'I can't save Iraq from civil war'
5. Crocodile Hunter who got too close

(By Jiang Xubo)



# Laowai sex blog below the belt

By Annie Wei

Chinese Internet users seemed to have got all hot for hunting liumang waijiao (immoral foreign teachers) recently.

One 'immoral foreign teacher' in particular was the author of a blog called Sex and Shanghai who is known only as Chinabounder.

Zhang Jiehai, a professor of psychology at Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences wrote an article exposing the details in Chinabounder's blog, which has been called insulting to Chinese people, and details his sexual exploits with Chinese women in Shanghai.

Zhang's article called on Chinese people to "chase down the

piece of foreign garbage and kick him out of China!"

Zhang's article was quickly published in many Chinese publications in Shanghai, and posted on big websites. According to messages left in Zhang's blog, a lot of people supported his call and were angered by Chinabounder's behavior.

Just as media and the public tried to find Chinabounder, the blog became inaccessible. This week, an article from the Associated Press said they got a message claiming the blog was a performing art piece by a British man, an Australian woman, two Chinese men and a Japanese woman

who wanted to investigate online vigilante behavior. Not everyone believed it, and meanwhile, professor Zhang also announced on his blog that Chinabounder had very possibly left China already.

Cosmopolitan cities like Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou have living areas that combine local and foreign residents. Among the non-Chinese, most are students and teachers - many language institutions do not require an education background or teaching licenses, as long as you have a foreign face. We've all seen very old expats hanging out with young Chinese women, or, dare I say it, ugly-looking expats dating edu-

cated and beyond middle-income Chinese women. It's not the first time that Chinese articles on the Internet have criticized expats for not respecting Chinese women, but it's the first time that someone has accused the Chinese women of being naive about foreign men.

Zhao Fan, a young Beijinger, said, "I think many foreign guys in China are filthy. But Chinese people also need to examine their issues with 'worshipping foreign things and toadying to foreign powers'."

An engineer from the UK Alistair Law said that it gave foreign men a bad image, and people might start to think all foreign men in China were like that.

## Fans sure to get a kick out of Jackie Chan, Jet Li movie

By David Drakeford

Chinese kung fu superstars Jackie Chan and Jet Li have long talked of working on a project together, but definite plans are now underway for a movie which incorporates characters and settings from the classic work of Chinese fiction *Journey to the West*.

Rumors have filled the internet for months but Jet Li's official website has now announced that an as yet untitled project is in the pipeline to be executive produced by both Jet Li and Jackie Chan with a script by Robert Mark Kamen (*Kiss of the Dragon*, *The Karate Kid*).

Despite rumors that Peter Jackson was sought as a director, according to the *Southern Metropolis Daily*, Han Sanping, president of co-producer China Film Group, revealed that Rob Minkoff (*Stuart Little*, *The Lion King*) would take the director's chair.

The movie's hero will be a modern-day teenage American boy who is transported back to ancient China on a search for the Monkey King. The fantasy action film will be in English and is described as being American in style. Shanghai has been touted as the location for filming early next year but Beijing is also a consideration.

Jackie Chan is famous for his comedy roles but it seems likely that Jet Li will play the Monkey King with Jackie as Lan Caihe, one of the eight immortals. Although kung fu fans will be keen to see how these two greats use their different fighting styles against each other, the initial script has them working together as allies throughout the movie.

## US women edge out Japan to defend world softball crown

By He Jianwei

The US beat Japan 3-0, including two home runs, to defend their title at the 2006 Women's Softball World Championships, at Beijing's Fengtai Stadium Tuesday.

The top four teams at these championships qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Australia and China took third and fourth spots. As the Chinese team were already there as hosts, the fifth placed team will go as well. That will be Canada, who beat Italy 3-0 Tuesday afternoon to book their ticket for a return to Beijing in 2008.

Don E. Porter, president of International Softball Federation (ISF), spoke highly of Beijing's organizing work for these championships, "This venue is the best one in the history of softball sports. We're very pleased and appreciative with the support we have found here. Not only with the organizing committee, the great many volunteers with their help, but also with the media coverage, including the television broadcast that play a very important role in our sport."

According to ISF Secretary-General Andrew Loechner, they



USA's Crystl Bustos, center right, is mobbed by teammates after hitting a solo homer off Japan's starter Yukiko Ueno in the sixth inning of their final at the Women's Softball World Championship in Beijing September 5. The United States blanked Japan 3 to 0.

IC Photo

hadn't expected that the organization of the event to be so successful when they chose Beijing to be the host city.

As Fengtai Softball Field will also be an Olympic venue in 2008, it could be used to host more international softball matches

before the Beijing Olympic Games, added Andrew.

The ISF president Don Porter said that the Federation would still work together with the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee to present the best possible softball event in 2008.

## Chopin Competition comes to China

By Chen Shasha

The Fifth International Frederick Chopin Competition for Young Pianists will be held in Beijing from September 9 to 17 in the Central Conservatory of Music. It is the first time the competition has been held in China.

It was started in 1992 in Moscow and held every four years in Russia. However, Wu Minqi, the press officer of the

competition committee said, "Due to the fine performances of the Chinese pianists in the 2004 competition, the Frederick Chopin Society plans to move the competition to China, and every two years, China and Russia will hold the competition in turn."

There will be over 40 competitors aged 15 and under from eight countries taking part in the competition. This year, some of the

jurors will perform in the opening ceremony tomorrow, including Anna Malikova from Germany, Eva Osinska from Poland, Rem Urasin from Russia and Wu Ying from China, another first for the competition. September 15 and 16, there will be Master Class Forecast by some of the jurors, which is open to lovers of the tinkling ivories.

For tickets, please contact 010-8447 6060.

## Korean, 14, killed on motorcycle

By Annie Wei

A 14-year-old South Korean, Choi Jong Hyun, was killed in a motorbike accident at around 2am last Sunday. His friend, 15-year-old Kim Min Chang, who was riding Chou's bike, was sent to hospital after the accident.

The accident happened when Choi and Kim were riding in Fu'an Xilu, Wangjing District. Choi was driving so fast that he lost control of his bike and hit a tree. Choi died at the site, while Kim was seriously hurt.

According to the doctor from the department of neurosurgery, Wangjing Hospital, Kim was out of danger but his right leg was broken.

## London Sinfonia set to wow crowds

By Jackie Zhang

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) will be undertaking its tour of China next week, starting in Beijing next Friday at the Forbidden City Concert Hall.

Music lovers have been looking forward to the tour with some anticipation, not least for the talent on display. CLS Principal Guest Conductor Douglas Boyd will be there, as will 18-year-old soloist Nicola Benedetti, a phenomenal young British talent who came to prominence in 2004 when she won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition.

## Opera: a ticket to stardom

By Gan Tian

The 2006 Isentopera International Opera Competition is hitting China, with 10 well-known opera singers from the US, Great Britain, Austria, Italy, and Germany coming to teach China how to falsetto it up—and take the best of the best to become professional stars.

The event will begin at the end of this month in Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Jinan, and many other cities in China. After a series of competitions in singing and performing, more than 10 candidates will receive top quality training from internationally famous opera singers.

Sign ups kicked off last week. Opera National de Paris, Houston Grand Opera, Greek National Opera, West Norwegian Opera, and many other famous international opera houses are waiting to enroll the winners.



# EUCC looks forward to more business with China

By Han Manman

The European Union Chamber of Commerce (EUCC), the voice of European Business in China, launched the European Business in China Position Paper 2006-2007 at a news conference, Tuesday.

An advance copy of the Paper, the premier annual publication of the EUCC in China was presented on Monday evening to Minister Bo Xilai of Commerce during a dinner cel-

ebating China's five-year WTO Partnership.

"Trade between China and Europe has largely benefited both economies. The European Union remains China's largest trading partner and China the EU's second largest," said Serge Janssens de Varebeke, the president of the European Chamber at Tuesday's conference. In his speech, Janssens de Varebeke stated that China has successfully implemented the majority

of WTO commitments ahead of schedule, and more than 90 percent of European companies feel optimistic on overall business in China. Nevertheless, "European companies still face some obstacles," said Janssens de Varebeke. The president said that 'Transparency' and 'Intellectual Property Rights' (IPR) remain the main concerns of doing business in China and a large majority of the Chamber's members would

hope for better enforcement of IPR law and regulations.

The Position Paper published each year is the most important communication tool that the European Chamber utilizes to convey operational business concerns of European companies to policy makers in the Chinese government and the European authorities and represents the overall view of European companies doing business in China.



The Brazilian Embassy celebrates Independence Day.

Photo by He Jianwei

## Brazil celebrates independence day

By He Jianwei

The embassy of Brazil held a party to celebrate its independence day Thursday in its garden.

Almost 400 people attended, including officials from other embassies, members of the Brazilian community in Beijing, officials from the Chinese government, businessmen, and journalists both home and abroad. Jose Solla, Secretary of the Embassy of Brazil, told us.

They served the guests typical Brazilian barbecue, feijoada (black bean rice), typical Brazilian desserts, and Brazilian black beer.

Brazil announced its independence in 1822 from the rule of Portugal.

## Atlanta mayor shares Olympic experience

By Chu Meng

The mayor of the city of Atlanta, Shirley Franklin, along with the Metro Atlantic Chamber of Commerce, started an eight-day summit visit to Beijing in the Great Hall of the People yesterday. She brought with her experiences of the preparation and hosting of the Olympic Games, and the economic development opportunities it can bring.

"Coincidentally, hours before boarding our flight to Beijing, our panda in Atlantic City, which China gave to us as a gift years ago, gave birth to a new baby. I took the birth as a very good sign for this visit and our multi-lateral cooperation in the future," the mayor said.



Franklin gets a present from Miss China Universe.

Photo by Cheng Xiangzhen

She told the assembly that the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games brought in US\$5 billion to the Atlanta economy and branded Atlanta to 70 percent of the world as a great place to do business. "I see Beijing is right on the same track. I would like to share my experience of hosting the Olympics with Beijing," she said. "Ten years later, Atlanta is still being transformed by an Olympic legacy that changed the face of downtown Atlanta, strengthened the city's reputation as a hub of global commerce and positioned Atlanta as the sports capital of the world. All these achievements can also be realized in Beijing."

The mayor will visit Shanghai, Wuhai and Hong Kong next week.

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BEIJING TODAY



# From hutong to highrise

By Gan Tian

Carrie Clyne, who is studying Chinese in Beijing, has developed a serious interest in the culture of Beijing's ancient hutong back streets. She gave a presentation to her expat friends in the Kent Club on Wednesday night.

'From Hutong to Highrise', sponsored by the Chinese Culture Club, is a project started by Clyne, who is fascinated with Chinese

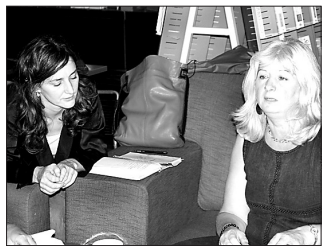
culture, and her friend Li Ying. They intend to document the disappearing hutong communities of Beijing. After two years work, the project is finally finished. They designed questions for the residents, and asked for help from them—they leant cameras to them and let them take photos of their daily lives. "That's a really good way to get the residents involved," said Li Ying.

The opening reception was on September 2, with an exhibition of their photos of Beijing's hutongs. This time they are focusing on every detailed story behind every photo – do the hutong residents love their homes? What do they think of them? What does the hutong mean in their daily life?

Clyne revealed that there is a big generation gap between the old and the young, which is obviously

fierce in hutong life – that is where the new culture lies. "Some old people want to live in this old-fashioned community as they think in this way they can communicate easily, but the youth prefer high-rise. They think privacy is needed, and a sharing life should be discarded. That's where the difference is," Clyne said.

For more details go to [www.hutongtohighrise.com](http://www.hutongtohighrise.com).



Nixon (right) gets poetic.

Photo provided by Beijing Bookworm

## Poetry workshop gets creative juices flowing

By David Drakeford

Scottish poet Liz Niven graced the Beijing Bookworm last Sunday to head a poetry workshop for aspiring wordsmiths. She has penned four solo collections herself and frequently incorporates the Scots language into work that promotes her mother tongue internationally. Characteristic of Bookworm events, the evening was informal and without charge.

Being new to poetry I turned up early to glean as much expertise as possible from Liz. She has an unrepentantly strong Scottish accent with a soft-spoken voice that belies her powerful verse. Inspiration seekers trickled in slowly, nervous to bare their souls.

The first exercise was to write about the sight, smell and touch of the color green. My own doggerel was stripped down by Liz for being too didactic. An older woman's writing revealed a surprising level of sexual activity which was not probed further. A Swede who could beat any Scot for dourness performed well in his third language and finally, an enthusiastic Quebecois conjured up complex nasal imagery simply by mentioning dog puke. My own verse was Chinese soup in comparison—watery and without fragrance.

The next exercise was to base a poem on Carol Ann Duffy's *Valentine*. A sprightly young woman, Alison, revealed an emotional intensity that was humbling – a future poet to look out for. An English instructor called David taught us how to laugh by suggesting that he would recycle a valentine's card simply by crossing out the name of his previous girlfriend. Poetic and thrifty.

For those seeking inspiration, The Beijing Bookworm has a lively open mic poetry evening every Wednesday at 7.30. All are welcome.

## International families party on down



Photo provided by Eileen Yan

By Qiu Jiaoning

As many expatriates leave the city for their summer holidays, the American Community Club and Chateau Regalia held a welcome back party called International Family Fun Carnival to celebrate their return to Beijing last Saturday.

About 300 people took part in the party, sharing food, jiving to blues-rock music and playing games. Dozens of families took their children to the party. Kids enjoyed games like min-

iature pony riding, a shooting gallery, bouncy castles, face painting and bubble blowing while clowns entertained the others.

An artist from China Central Art Gallery drew portraits for the partygoers while the Black Cat Bone band played live blues-rock music.

"It's all part of our effort to provide occasion for foreigners to lead a full and varied life in Beijing and we will try to hold more such parties during the autumn – Beijing's best season," one of the party organizers, Eileen Yan said.

## From single classroom to 'super school'

### ISB celebrates 25 years at the top of the class



ISB's first class at US embassy in 1980. Photo by ISB

By Tom Mackenzie

The International School of Beijing (ISB) has come a long way since its foundation in 1981. From a handful of pupils in a backroom of the US embassy to a 1,800-pupil state-of-the-art 'super school' in Shunyi, its transformation, like the country in which it sits, has been phenomenal.

As ISB celebrates its 25th anniversary this term, staff, pupils and parents will look back on the history of one of China's first international schools. And it's a history that, in some small way, mirrors the changes in China from the 'reform and opening' 80s to its present day might as a global economic and dip-

lomatic powerhouse.

It all started in 1980 when five embassies (American, British, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand) combined forces to found ISB and locate it on the grounds of the US embassy. Ann Holder Preston, who was married to a diplomat at the time, was one of the teachers.

"In 1980-81 we began setting up a school that all English-speaking students could attend," she



A class photo from 1988.

said, reflecting on ISB's beginnings. "A British woman was chosen to be the headmistress. It really was quite an exciting time to be in Beijing. Bob Hope brought a whole troupe of people

to put on a show. The highlight for the children was that Big Bird (from hit children's show *Sesame Street*) came."

In 1988, ISB registered as a 'School for Diplomatic Children' under the auspices of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The school began to accept applications from all expatriate residents, rather than just diplomats, and relocated to the Lido office complex.

Five years on, ISB's first five graduates received their diplomas and pupil numbers topped 500 with hundreds more put on waiting lists.

On December 1, 2000, 45 buses brought 1,300 students, teachers, staff and parents from ISB's run-down home at the Lido to the new gleaming Shunyi campus.

Today, facing stiff competition from the likes of the Western Academy of Beijing and Beijing City International School, ISB may not dominate the city's international education market as it once did. But 25 years on and with 1,800 pupils from more than 50 different countries, it remains at the top of the league.

## New head welcomes students

By Chen Shasha

The German Embassy school of Beijing began a new semester last week, with 60 new students.

It is the only German school in Beijing, with more than 370 students from Germany. "The study system is the same as it is in Germany," said Angela Strathmann, president of the school. As a new president, who has worked in China for just six months, Strathmann said she would keep the tradition of the school. In the new semester, all the 13 grades opened for registration as usual. Children aged from six to 19 are all welcome to the school. Most of the courses will be taught in German and English. As well as English and French language courses, the school will also offer Chinese language courses. Apart from four Chinese teachers taking the mandarin lessons, all the teachers are from Germany.

Last semester, Strathmann visited 17 Chinese schools in Beijing. "The sport courses in China are quite good," she said. She also found the morning exercises that Chinese kids do together every morning was a good way for students to keep healthy. In the new semester, she plans to mix Chinese and German holidays together and set up new schedule. Students will have holidays both on Chinese National Day and Germany's national holiday.

## Largest inner-city international school opens its doors

By Huang Daohen

The Canadian International School of Beijing (CIS) — said to be the largest international school in the city—opened its doors to students for the first time on Monday.

Located in the third embassy zone north of Liangmahe in Chaoyang District, the school covers a total area of 35,800 square meters, and has a maximum capacity for 2,000 students. Sponsors of CIS include the Canadian government, the education authority of New Brunswick in Canada and a Canadian education company.

Three hundred children from more than 22 countries including Britain, the US, France, South Korea and Japan have enrolled as the schools first batch of students.

"They will receive an international and cultural education and all the staff are experienced teachers from Canada," Ma Jiaxin said, a member of staff at CIS. Students will not only study all the courses arranged by the International Baccalaureate Organization but also focus on development and life-long learning. The integration of various cultures will be another feature of CIS.



Between September and October, large numbers of international students will come to China to study. To help those new comers, *Beijing Today* published a four-page supplement (page 11-14) last week for new foreign students, with information on everything from Chinese laws to how to make friends. In the following weeks, *Beijing Today* will run a special page with all the information these students need from getting scholarships and learning Chinese to traveling around China to renting an apartment. If there is anything more you want to find out about, e-mail Shirley\_chen@ynet.com and she will do her best to hunt down the information you need.

# Getting scholarships to study in China

By Chen Shasha

Zhang Xiuqin, Secretary-General of China scholarship council (CSC), affiliated with the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for the organization, management and provision of financial assistance to international students and scholars studying in China, talked about the country's scholarship system. Wang Yong, who manages scholarships in the office of international students in Beijing University, gave suggestions on how to get scholarships.

According to Zhang Xiuqin, by the end of 2005, there were 7,206 international students funded by Chinese Government Scholarships, including undergraduate, Master's degree, Doctoral, diploma and short-term students.

## Scholarships available

According to Zhang's department, there are many kinds of scholarships to foreign students in China, including:

### 1. The Chinese Government Scholarship Scheme

It is the main scholarship both in full and in part for international students and scholars.

A Chinese government full scholarship covers tuition (or research) fees, medical insurance, basic learning materials costs, accommodation, living allowance, a one-time settlement subsidy and one inter-city travel allowance. The full scholarship for undergraduates is 800 yuan per month and 1,100 yuan per month for Chinese language students. The partial scholarship contains one or some items covered by the full scholarship.

The period for applying for this scholarship is from the beginning of January to the end of April. Students need to provide



Foreign students register for the new semester at Wuhan University. The number of foreign students has soared in recent years. Wuhan University alone has more than 1,300 overseas students. CFP Photo

relevant application documents including notarized photocopies of diplomas, transcripts, study plans, health certificates and recommendation letters. Application documents for scholarships must reach the CSC before the deadline as specified in the Application Procedures via your embassy in China or Chinese diplomatic missions in the applicants' home country.

### 2. CHINA/UNESCO the Great Wall Fellowship Scheme

This is a full scholarship scheme for candidates recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Only senior visiting scholar candidates are eligible. Applicants should apply either to UNESCO headquarters or to the UNESCO national committee in the applicants' home countries.

### 3. Distinguished International Students Scholarship Scheme

This scholarship sponsors outstanding international master's and doctoral candidate students. It includes full or partial scholarships. Applicants must apply through their hosting institutions.

Beijing Education Bureau and some institutions themselves also offer scholarships. According to Wang Yong, Beijing University awards scholarships to foreign students every year. Generally, the scholarships for undergraduates are 4,000 yuan per year and 5,000 yuan for postgraduates. For doctoral candidates, the fees are from 5,000 yuan to 10,000 yuan per year. In other universities, including the Capital Teachers University, there are also some smaller awards for students which run to a couple of hundred yuan.

### Annual review

Scholarship students who have studied in China for more than one year or who have finished their planned study programs and wish to extend their scholarship should go through an annual review. The review includes the scores students get, their attitude towards study, attendance, and the rewards and punishments they receive.

According to the assessments and suggestions of the institutions where students studied, CSC will finally decide whether to continuously provide, suspend or terminate the scholarship.

The scholarship will be suspended for one year if the students fail to go up to the next grade or go down a grade after failing exams or do not reach the required credits on the elective courses in two consecutive years, or have been kept in school but placed under surveillance.

The students whose scholarships are suspended, can apply to continue their studies as self-financed students or ask for exemption of certain fees according to the regulations of the institutions.

The annual review is carried out every April.

### Bank Card

Most schools will transfer the scholarships to the students' bank cards. "Generally, the office of international students will help students to apply for cards from one of the Chinese banks. For example, here at Beijing University we choose China Bank as our partner and the money will be put onto a China Bank card." Wang Yong said.

For more information on applying for scholarships, go to [www.csc.edu.cn](http://www.csc.edu.cn), or call the China Scholarship Council on 86-10-6641 3253, 6641 3132.

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# BEIJING TODAY

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# English

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# A Continuous Dialogue Between Chinese and Western Artists

By Huang Daohen

Art and artists tend to thrive within an international context in today's perpetually dynamic world. The exchange of ideas between artists from different cultural and social backgrounds is not only practical, but also vital to the development of art and the spirit of internationalism. It is with this in mind that a group of Chinese artists are putting on an exhibition, called 'A Continuous Dialogue', at Galleria Continua.

The eight artists are: Ai Weiwei, Cao Fei, Gu Dexin, Kan Xuan, Lu Chunsheng, Yan Lei, Zhuang Hui and Zheng Guogu. Their works are made from a range of different media, from large-scale installations and paintings to video projections and photography, all with different angles of observation. This exhibition is articulated by prominent minds, and unique personalities rather than staging a trend.

The Chinese Artists Group Show will also be exhibited in Italy on December 16 2006.

## Ai Weiwei

"If one sentence is to be carved on my gravestone, it should be 'a person with a split personality represents all the deficiencies of his time.'"

Select a particularly well-proportioned Han jar, hold it over a concrete pavement, and drop it so that it smashes into fragments. Then take one Han dynasty urn that is more than 2,000 years old and carefully paint a Coca-Cola logo across it. Next, take several decorated Stone Age urns, anything up to 10,000 years old, and paint them white, or in garish colors. After all that, there's only one more thing Ai Weiwei can do with Chinese culture – join forces with Herzog and de Meuron to design Beijing's new Olympic stadium!

Ai Weiwei, the son of the famous poet, Ai Qing, is one of the most important and influential contemporary Chinese artists. Born in 1957, Ai grew up in hardship and poverty with his family before spending 12 years in the US. Gliding through the oceans of different cultures and ages, Ai's works are the result of an unceasing shift between conflicts of his life. Speaking about the working process used for his installations generated from ancient Chinese furniture, Ai said, "It's necessary, not just interesting, to develop skills in a new direction, yet partly using the same logic. I use the meaning to destroy the meaning."

## Cao Fei

"We brush past history and tradition; we shake hands with them; we nod at them."

A short digital video (DV) film, called *Hip Hop* in the exhibition is one of the highlights because it is cheeky and fun. The film stars a builder (in a helmet), a road worker (in thick fluorescent clothes) and a policeman (with a belly). All these workers, who were shown in heroic positions, are filmed in public, folding their legs, waggling their arms and moving to the rhythm of hip hop, with index finger uplifted and pointed.

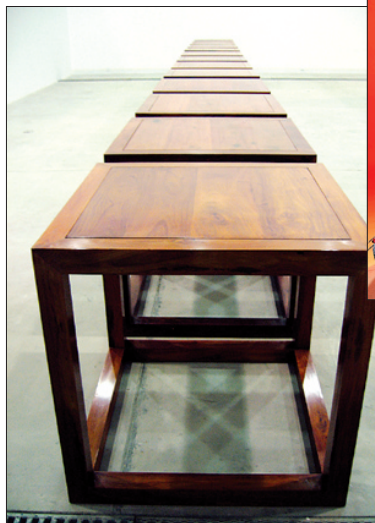
That is what the young artist, Cao Fei, wants to show. Unlike heroic military music, the music better seizes today's life, simpler and closer. A dancing cop, needless to say, is an amusing sight in itself.

Young, independent, sensitive to individual choices and freedom, Cao is no doubt one of the most remarkable and powerful artists of this generation. Born in 1978 in Guangzhou, she has grown up in the world of electronic entertainments and ads prevalent with Hong Kong-Taiwan style pop music and new American rap, without forgetting Chinese traditional operas. She started her artistic career at an extremely young age: before the age of 20.

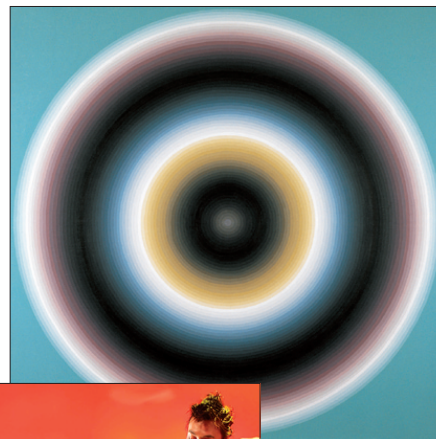
For the last few years, she has produced a great number of DV films and photography, covering a wide range of subjects, both closely related to people's everyday life and social transformations.



Or Everything, Kan Xuan



Table, Ai Weiwei



Colour Wheels, Yan Lei



Not Going Home Today, Cao Fei



Five tons of apples and a road roller, Gu Dexin

## Gu Dexin

"I care a lot about... and other people, the... viduals, majority and... how people become..."

Consisting of five tons of apples, the exhibition with a road roller installation penetrates the exhibition space from an empty box with into a colorful display of ripe apples.

Self-taught Gu Dexin is the massive figure within the contemporary Chinese art world. Living in the political and cultural context, he nevertheless manages to hide his identity by giving meaningful names to his works. All his works are all titled with the date of the exhibition, giving the spectators a sense of the piece of art in front of them.

Gu's installations and performances all plays with the process of the work. He uses apples and meat, reject any aesthetic logic. If Gu admits to being fastidious, all those things have a deep influence that is determined by moral values.

Similarly, toys play a very important role in his installations. By assembling a large number of toys, he ironically stresses those tensions between desire and frustration in the artwork", says Gu, "is whether we turn our bodies into toys, or toys into bodies."

## Lu Chunsheng

"Everyone has his own story... at the city in which he lives... through the lens of a camera..."

Video as the most open and accessible medium has provided the artists with an ideal platform to witness the process of the work. Confronting an incomprehensible world, Lu Chunsheng also seeks to find a way to escape via video.

Lu's films and photographs of the industrial-era and communities are told via his films are more particularly generative aspects. It breaches the boundary between art and life. Using fixed camera positions and shooting techniques, he documents unexplainable situations.

Having graduated from the China National Academy of Art, focusing on photography and video, his photographs, video and music are recognized on an international level.





## A Continuous Dialogue

Artists: Ai Weiwei, Cao Fei, Gu Dexin, Kan Xuan, Lu Chunsheng, Yan Lei, Zheng Guogu and Zhuang Hui  
Where: Gallery Continua Beijing, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until November 2  
Tel: 6436 1005

History of Chemistry, Lu Chunsheng

# Dialogue:

## Artists push the boundaries

relationships: me  
the media and indi-  
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themselves."

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March 5th, 2005, Gu Dexin

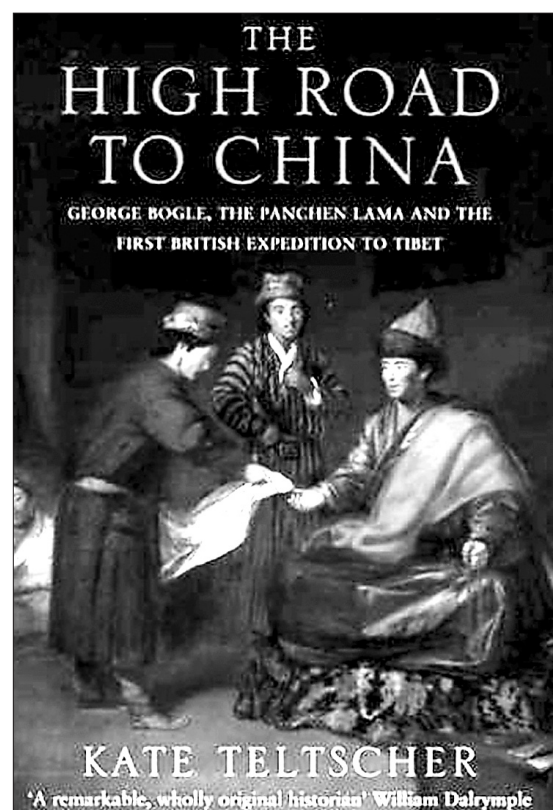


# The High Road to China

By Kate Teltscher  
Bloomsbury, US\$38, pp336  
Synopsis

In 1774, the head of the East India Company in Bengal, Warren Hastings, determined to open trade relations with the hitherto impenetrable court of imperial China. To this end he entrusted the young Scotsman George Bogle to be the first British envoy to Tibet. Once there, Bogle attempted to enlist the influence of the Panchen Lama in a bid to attract the sympathy of the Qianlong Emperor; a hard task, for the imperial court generally viewed trade with disdain, and took an altogether dim view of the British Empire. But what began as an unprecedented diplomatic mission soon acquired a different character. Bogle became smitten by what he saw, and in particular by the person of the Panchen Lama himself, with whom he struck up a remarkable friendship, fuelled by a reciprocal desire for understanding. And as for Tibet: 'When I look upon the time I have spent among the Hills it appears like a fairy dream.' Bogle's letters and journals, by turns playful, penetrating, self-deprecating and packed with engaging detail, were to help create the myth of Tibet in the West, the Shangri-La so familiar to us today. This book tells the story of the British attempt to reach the Qianlong Emperor's ear, a narrative of two extraordinary journeys across some of the harshest and highest terrain in the world: Bogle's mission, and the Panchen Lama's visit to Beijing, on which British hopes were hung. Piecing together the narrative from Bogle's private papers, Tibetan biographies of the Panchen Lama, the account of a wandering Hindu monk, and the writings of the Qianlong Emperor himself, Kate Teltscher deftly reconstructs the momentous meeting of four very different worlds.

## George Bogle, the Panchen Lama and the First British Expedition to Tibet



### So who's this Teltscher? The writer? What does she have to do with Bogle?

"A senior lecturer in English literature at London's Roehampton University, Teltscher is an expert in early British attitudes to India, and the Calcutta-based (now Kolkata) George Bogle is undoubtedly the star of her show. Her account of Bogle's journey and time in Tibet relies heavily on the young man's own expansive account, as he manages his bearers, decks himself out in Tartar furs, and flirts – and then some – with a pair of tortured Tibetan princesses."

– Fraser Newham

### This Bogle sounds like he was a bit of character...

"For Bogle the trip [to Tibet] was the highlight of a spectacular but short-lived career, riding an imperial fast track to influence and riches tailor-made for a young Briton with the right sort of zest for life. Son of a financially troubled family of Glasgow merchants, Bogle joined the East India Company as a clerk in 1770, age 22. In Bengal he soon caught the eye of Warren Hastings, First Lord of Calcutta and the biggest imperial hitter in the East; by 1774 he was Hastings' private secretary and, as star protegee, the man the governor chose to open diplo-

matic relations with Lobsang Palden Yeshe, fifth incarnation of the Panchen Lama and a living god."

– Fraser Newham

### Did the wheeler dealing Scot find Tibet to his liking?

"According, at least, to Bogle's journals, his audiences with the Panchen Lama generated a remarkably close and companionable acquaintance, fed by open-hearted mutual curiosity and by Bogle's enchantment with the land of his hosts. Even as he strived to strike a trade agreement that would drag it into the modern European world, Bogle celebrated Tibet's noble savagery, its 'honest and simple people' who knew 'no wants but those of nature.'"

– Julia Lovell

### So what kind of an insight does this reexamination of Bogle's letters make today?

"A wonderful book, absolutely compelling. I am quite certain that readers will find it irresistible."

– John Carey

### I'm off to the shops then...

"An extraordinary narrative dominated by marvelous characters and told with a rare mix-

ture of scholarly learning and enthusiast's fizz."

– Jan Morris

### Sounds perfect. But?

"But the book is a little too short on powerfully realized characters and plot drama to be a wholly engaging work of popular history. Bogle seems more a worthy academic case-study in imperialist ambivalence – the envoy of bumptiously progressive British free trade unexpectedly entranced by the unspoiled primitivism of Tibet – than the kind of memorably determined explorer-diplomat hero that would make the story completely compelling. His inability to follow through on his relationship with the Panchen Lama in order to represent Britain personally before the Qing emperor, and the lack of definite proof that the Tibetan did so in his place, make the book oddly anti-climactic."

– Julia Lovell

### Unputdownable until you put it down? Doesn't sound too bad.

"There are many admirably informative aspects to this painstakingly researched book: in particular, its overview of the rulers of early British India – their corruption, their networks of patronage, their paradoxical combination of exploitative roguery and

intellectual curiosity. Bogle's refreshing readiness to accommodate himself to Tibetan ways, and to reflect critically, from the perspective of the mountains and plateaux, on his own society make a thought-provoking contrast with the pompous stridency of Britain's later ventures into China and Tibet. There are also careful historical accounts of Tibetan and Bhutanese society, helpful side-glances at subjects ranging from Enlightenment philosophy to 18th-century fashions in travel writing, and splashes of entertaining detail – such as the Tibetan cure for altitude sickness: 'to chew garlic and face backwards on one's mount, away from ... poisonous mountain vapors.'

– Julia Lovell

### So I expect Bogle himself similarly petered out into obscurity.

"Only six years after his return, Bogle's life would be cut short, in tragic farce – slipping as he left his rooftop bath at his Calcutta home. But he was the first to write in English of Tibet in such glowing terms; and ultimately his view stuck, contributing to contemporary ideas of Tibet as the Himalayan paradise."

– Fraser Newham  
I stand corrected.

(By Gareth George)

## Local shelf

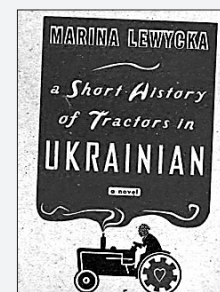
### Mr China: a memoir

By Tim Clissold

Collins, 762 pages, 140yuan

Mr. China tells the rollicking story of a young man who goes to China with the misguided notion that he will help bring the Chinese into the modern world, only to be schooled by the most resourceful and creative operators he would ever meet.

### A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian



By Marina Lewycka

Penguin Fiction, 325 pages, 120yuan

Lewycka's engaging tale about a dysfunctional Ukrainian family is set in Peterborough in the early 1990s – a suitably drab, utilitarian setting for a work whose range of reference includes the horrors of Soviet labour camps, growing up in 'austerity' Britain, and the labyrinthine workings of the immigration system.

Her narrator, Nadia, is, like the author, the child of Ukrainian refugees – a 'peace baby', born at the end of the Second World War, who has never known anything other than the mundane security of her parents' adopted country. Unlike her rebarbative elder sister, Vera – the 'war baby' of the family – Nadia prides herself on her left-wing views.

It's a battle of wills with all the participants shaped by their own pasts through recent Eastern European history.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang

Tel: 6586 9507

### Gerhard Richter-Forty Years of Painting

By Robert Storr

Museum of Modern Art, 340 pages, 720yuan

Ranging from photo-based pictures to gestural abstraction, Gerhard Richter's diverse body of work calls into question many widely held attitudes about the inherent importance of stylistic consistency, the 'natural' evolution of individual artistic sensibility, the spontaneous component of creativity, and the relationship of technological means and mass media imagery to traditional studio methods and formats.

Available:

Timezone 8 Art books

Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

Contact: 6400 4427

(By Han Manman)



By Chu Meng

On the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar (October 6 this year), the moon is full and it is time for the Chinese people to mark their Mid-Autumn Festival, the third major festival of the Chinese calendar. This festival corresponds to the harvest festival observed by western cultures.

The round shape symbolizes family reunion. The day is a holiday for family members gather and enjoy the full moon, an auspicious token of abundance, harmony and luck.

This festival is also known as the Moon Cake Festival because a special kind of sweet cake, called *yue bing* in Chinese, prepared in the shape of the moon

and filled with sesame seeds, ground lotus seeds and duck eggs is served as a traditional Mid-Autumn delicacy.

In the old days, Chinese people would usually indulge in fragrant moon cakes with a good cup of piping hot tea. But nowadays, people have hundreds of new flavors to choose.

# The legend of moon cakes

## Enjoy a water-borne journey to the Summer Palace

By Chu Meng

In addition to the traditional flavors of date paste, red bean paste, white lotus paste and egg yolk, this year, Executive Chinese Chef Chau Oi Fong from Beijing Shangri-La Hotel, has created a special range of western style moon cakes such as coffee and nuts, green tea, white lotus with blueberry for you to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. These holiday delicacies all come in strikingly designed gift boxes, perfect to share with your family and friends.

### Floating

Both locals and expats can now enjoy these moon cakes as they take an exclusive water-borne journey to the Summer Palace.

The 11-meter long 'River Dragon', a new vessel commissioned by Beijing Shangri-La Hotel, will soon start doing cruises to the Summer Palace, the historic garden built by Qing Dynasty Emperor Qianlong to celebrate his mother's birthday in 1750.

Recreating the imperial route that many past Chinese Emperors and Empresses enjoyed, the one-hour ride on the Chang (Long) River offers views of old bridges, temples and traditional Chinese courtyard houses on the riverbanks, today backdropped by Beijing's modern city skyline.

### Peace

In this very limited brilliant weather of Beijing autumn, in a city where hundreds of cars enter the road network each day, the river is a flowing oasis of peace and quiet, a slice of local life frozen in time.

The experience can be further enhanced by an on-board calligraphy class, traditional Chinese tea ceremony, and concert with traditional Chinese musical instruments, or other authentic cultural offerings, all of which can be custom designed to suit the client's individual requirements.

**Where:** 29 Zizhuyuan Road, West Third Ring Road  
**Hotline:** 6841 2211 - 2888



Photo by Shangri-La Hotel

## The Holiland for moon cake lovers

By He Jianwei

Holiland, China's biggest baker of cakes, will lay on a spread of traditional Chinese and Western-style moon cakes this autumn.

The sweet potato moon cake is promising to be a popular choice. The stuffing is made from fresh sweet potato grown in farmland high up in the mountains around Beijing mixed with lotus seeds, malt, and sugar with the scent of osmanthus flowers. Biting into the moon cake in the middle of pollution-choked Beijing, you get a welcome whiff of the countryside. These unpackaged moon cakes are one yuan a piece.

The western-style moon cake has a cheesy taste and sweetened bean paste. The cheese is imported from France, according to Qin Yue, the clerk at Holiland's Zuo-jiazhuang Branch, giving it a unique flavor.

Jumping on the health bandwagon, Holiland is even offering reduced sugar moon cakes this year.

"We have two kinds of xylitol moon cakes, one with stuffing of lotus seed and the other with pumpkin," said Qin. One box includes two moon cakes and will set you back 69 yuan.

## Ice cream giant to cash in on moon-cake craze

By He Jianwei

Would you ever imagine chocolate ice cream being given the traditional Chinese name 'moon cake'? Well, the bosses at Haagen-Dazs obviously did – mooncake ice cream will once again line their store's shelves this autumn.

The Deluxe Collection is the first mooncake-themed ice cream to be recommended by staff at Haagen-Dazs's Branch in the International Trade Center. This collection is made up of eight moon cakes with eight different classic tastes of ice cream with a mango sorbet filling. The ice cream is wrapped in black chocolate carved with delicate flower patterns and decorated with edible gold foil. The whole lot will set you back 668 yuan.

The other collection with an elaborate design is the seven-star and the moon collection, which includes eight moon cakes. The seven stars are seven mini mooncakes with three different flavors including vanilla ice cream, strawberry ice cream and chocolate ice cream. All these seven mini moon cakes surround a bigger moon cake, which represents the moon with a filling of mango sorbet studded with Hawaiian nuts. All these eight mooncakes are wrapped in black chocolate. This little lot will set you back 388 yuan.

Photo by Haagen-Dazs

## Classic, healthy moon cakes

By Chu Meng

China World Hotel Beijing has a long history of serving high quality authentic moon cakes. Their moon cakes are made from the finest ingredients, like the lotus seed from Hunan province. This year they have created four new nutritious moon cakes, made from vegetable oil that has no cholesterol and is rich in vitamin E.

Low-sugar Chinese yam with yolk moon cakes also come highly recommended. They are made of two layers of raspberry lotus paste with chunky dried cranberries and a cheesy mung bean filling in the center. Raspberries and cranberries contain high levels of antioxidants protecting you against heart disease.

Low-sugar honey black glutinous rice moon cakes are thickened with oriental flavor. Natural and nutritious honey is blended into the specially made low sugar white lotus paste and combined with a healthy black glutinous rice filling.

**Where:** No. 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang  
**Hotline:** 65052266 ext. 34



Photo by China World Hotel

## Posting moon cakes overseas to friends and family

By Jiang Xubo

If you fancy sending friends and family a taste of traditional China, you can post moon cakes to most countries.

### Australia

Moon-cakes containing eggs are not allowed to be posted to our friends down under. You will also need to provide a receipt and customs declaration certificate.

### US

The big wigs in the bureaucratic land of the free say you should get permission from the US Food and Drug Administration before posting off your tasty Chinese nibbles. Or you could just take your chances...

### Canada

Posting moon-cakes containing meat to this land of maple syrup slurpers is forbidden. You will also need a receipt and customs certificate, in both French and English, listing, in detail the ingredients of the moon-cakes, quantity, weight and producer. And who said Canadians were boring?

### Spain

No petty paper work is needed for those wanting to post moon cakes to the laid-back land of Spain. Any package under five kilograms and costing no more than twenty-two Euros is also duty free.

### France

The French don't like to cause a fuss either. Moon cakes less than two kilograms can be posted to gay Paris and beyond hassle free.

### New Zealand

The government of New Zealand will not allow any moon cakes containing honey onto their islands. You have been warned.

### UK

The uptight Brits require a receipt and declaration form with any package of moon cakes.

### Japan

There are no restrictions on sending moon-cakes to Japan weighing less than five kilograms.

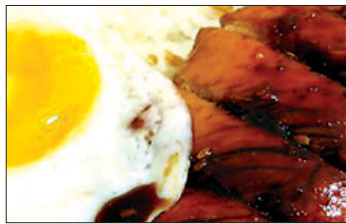
### India & Indonesia

For reasons unknown to this lowly hack, posting moon-cakes to India and Indonesia is totally forbidden.



**12% off**

Eat at Le Yi meat and rice restaurant (Disanzhiye, Sanyuanqiao, Chaoyang) and get 12% off until September 10. For details, call 5822 1367.

**Free gifts for teachers**

Free bottles of Yang Sheng Tang Vitamin E will be dished out to teachers at every big shopping center's Yang Sheng Tang counter on teacher's day, September 10. For details, call 8412 1107.

**Buffet dinner**

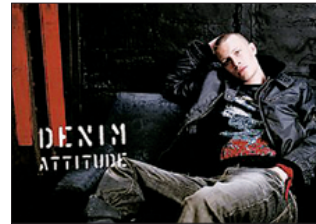
French and Russian buffet dinner only 58-88 yuan per person at Wei Lan western food restaurant (27 Gulouwai Dajie, Wanwang building). Free salad bar offered, Monday-Friday 6 pm-9 pm, Saturday-Sunday, all day long. For details, call 8413 5540.

**Up to 50% off**

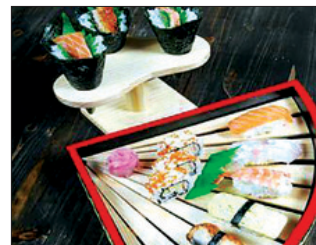
Get up to 50% off Girl's clothing brand Shu Nv Wu (elegant girl's room) at Shuang An shopping center (38 Beisanhuan, Haidian) until September 20. For details, call 8214 8000.

**50% off**

Get 50% off famous clothes brand Jack Jones at Anzhen Hualian Plaza (Anzhenxili, Beisanhuan, Chaoyang) until the end of this month. For details, call 6444 5621.

**42% off**

Eat at Ming Du Yuan Japanese restaurant (Huang Yuan Hotel, Changwalu, Haidian) for lunch and get 42% off until September 10. For details, call 6845 8862.

**80% off**

G2000 is offering a discount of 80% off at Chenxi Department Store in Oriental Plaza (Dong Fang Guang Chang, Wangfujing, Dongcheng). For details, call 8518 4488.

**20% off**

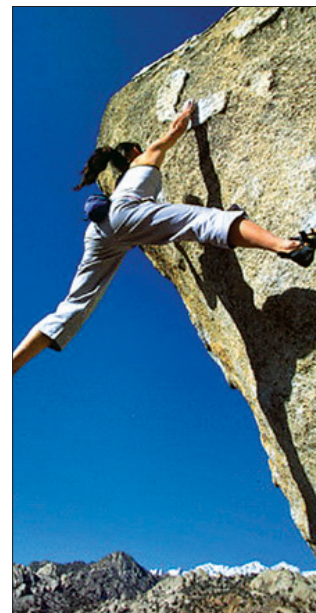
Spend over 58 yuan at Xia Pu Xia Pu hot pot restaurant (Huan Run supermarket, Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang) and get 20% off until September 15. For details, call 6025 9312.

**T-Bar**

Go 'Cointreauversal' in September. Unleash the personality within and match it with one of our Cointreau cocktails: B52; Only You; Screaming Sandy; and more, from September 1-30. For more information, call 6505 2277 ext.35

**50% off**

Get 50% off big name sunglasses from chain store Feng Hao (found all over Beijing) until September 15. For details, call 8353 9179.

**20%-30%**

Get up to 30% off outdoor brand The North Face at Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) until September 10. For details, call 6257 6688.

(By Terence Lu)

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By Gan Tian

Irresponsible oafs of the world, rejoice. For too long we have suffered with rooms that are bare or filled with crusty expiring life. No one likes to visit a home that looks like some kind of post-apocalyptic biker hangout. Fellow bodies ostensibly owned by absent minds, there is an answer – I've found it. There are plants that don't even need you to water them very often – even at all. Put them in your home and watch the life, and the opposite sex, return...

# Gardening for the terminally lazy



Dragon tree



Fortune Banyan



Changing fate bamboo

## Panax (Fulutong)

Panax has a Chinese name - Fulutong, which means the bringer of luck and fortune. And it will be lucky, if you are the type who forgets to water your plant then regrets it bitterly as the last fragile brown leaf comes away with your hand. Fertilize it once every two weeks and put it in the room, it will flourish. Just a little sunshine in the room about three or four hours everyday is fine for the panax. And you needn't water or fertilize it after September - it will make it through the winter by itself.

Price: 800-1,000 yuan

Available: Xincheng Flower Shop, Path Seven, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 6463 5588 ext.2813

## Dragon tree (Longxueshu)

It actually means dragon's blood tree in Chinese. Like many of us, it prefers a shady environment so you can put it near your TV, or under the air-conditioner – give it a little shade and it will be very happy. As its name suggests, dragon and blood, it is a kind plant which will give you a 'glorious, noble, splendid, and imposing' feeling. By 'imposing', read 'big'. If you don't have a lot of space then forget it. Hey, it's a dragon.

Price: 1,200 yuan

Available: Xincheng Flower Shop, Path Seven, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 6463 5588 ext.2813

## Fortune Banyan (Zhaocai Rongpan)

Ok, I know every tree and flower seem to have a lucky Chinese name. But this banyan is supposed to bring money, so let's give it a chance. Don't worry about fertilizer, sunshine is enough. And the flowers look like tiny lanterns, bless 'em.

Price: 500-800 yuan

Available: Xincheng Flower Shop, Path Seven, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 6463 5588 ext.2813

## Calathea ornata sanderiana (Shuangxian Zhu)

The shop manager told me the leaves of this plant will stand up

and face the sky in the middle of the night. Can you say 'Day of the Triffids'? Cool.

Price: 150 yuan

Available: Xincheng Flower Shop, Path Seven, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 6463 5588 ext.2813

## Lucky Bamboo (Fugui Zhu)

This bamboo is lucky. Put a little water in its bowl and it'll live quite happily for six or seven years - no work, no women troubles, just photosynthesis. I'm tempted to kill it through sheer jealousy.

Price: 150 yuan (eight floors)

Available: Beijing Sunland Flowers and Plants, Path Seven, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 6463 6259

## Changing fate bamboo (Zhuan yun Zhu)

This ugly twisting snake-like bamboo can change your fate, or so the shop owner tells me. It will also add humidity in your bedroom. I would like to think that my fate is not

entirely dependent on the humidity levels of my bedroom, but....well who knows? You got yourself a sale plant guy.

Price: 50 yuan

Available: Beijing Sunland Flowers and Plants, Path Seven, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 6463 6259

## Lovely cactus

Cacti bring color, sunshine, oxygen and life to your meager dwelling. Buy 20 and make your room look like the Mojave Desert. Trippy.

Price: 20 yuan each

Available: Bolin Gardening, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 13911161895

## Color cactus boat

Plants made creative. Take the colorful cactus of your choice and stick it in a boat with colorful sands (that also provide nutrients for the hungry plant). Ah, my pretty cactus.

Price: 110 yuan

Available: Bolin Gardening, Laitai Flower Shopping Mall, No.9, Maizidianxilu Road, Chaoyang  
Tel: 13911161895



Cactus boat



Panax



Calathea ornata sanderiana



Lucky Bamboo



Cacti



## Tips for soothing back pain

Back pain: we all get it sometimes. It is not uncommon to have back pain for no apparent reason. Actually poor posture or incorrect movement while you are awake or asleep are all likely culprits, and you may not even notice them until the pain starts.

Good posture and regular exercise help minimize chronic back conditions. Getting in better physical condition will help prevent back pain. Regular exercise is good but it is important not to strain your back. Here are some practical tips to prevent back pain from happening too often or from becoming serious.

### 1. Stay flexible

Desk-bound workers should get up every 20 minutes, even if it's just to get a glass of water. Lack of mobility is the most common cause of back pain for most people. Having chairs, especially those you spend a lot of time on, that provide enough good back support is very important. In order to fully relax your neck and back, practise holding your chin up, as if a fish-hook were pulling it forwards and outwards, and hold your head high.

### 2. Watch your posture

You may think that slouching when sitting or standing is relaxing your muscles. But actually, it makes your muscles work harder. Good posture, which involves standing and sitting in a balanced and neutral position, is the best way to avoid straining your spine. If you have a bag or briefcase, regularly alternate your carrying arm. In addition, try to avoid standing or bending down for long periods.

### 3. Bend the knees

The most common cause of a slipped disc is a sudden twist and jerk movement, such as reaching to pick up heavy luggage. If you need to bend down, make sure you bend your knees and don't rotate your body at the same time. Bend first, then rotate after. And make sure you stand close to the load you're lifting.

### 4. Don't sleep on a hard bed

Hard beds won't absorb and support your natural contours and the pressure of your body-weight will be redirected back into your body. A good bed should adjust to the shape of your spine and be comfortable but firm – a bed that's too soft can also cause back problems.

### 5. Go swimming

It's great for back stability training. Working against the resistance of the water builds strength and tones the body, but because it's not weight-bearing there's no risk of impact injuries or muscle strains. Front crawl is especially good for your muscles.

### 6. Watch your weight

Putting on a lot of weight over a short period of time can place stress on the body by tilting the pelvis forwards and overloading the spine. Ever wondered why pregnant women suffer back pain?

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

# Get your dry autumn skin up to scratch



It's that time of year again, Beijing, September – when people enjoy the cool early autumn. But at the same time dry air suddenly saps moisture from the skin, causing rough, flaky, scaly, itchy, dry skin.

We all get dry in the autumn and winter time, and it's important to restore moisture to the skin to avoid a lot of skin problems. Easy preventive steps will keep your face and body soft and radiant all fall and winter long. Here are some tips to help you keep your skin as youthful-looking and healthy as possible throughout the dry season:

1. Cleanse your skin, but don't overdo it. It is enough to wash your face, hands, feet, and between the folds of your skin once a day. The trunk, arms, and legs can be rinsed daily, but it is not necessary to use soap or cleanser on these areas every day. Too much cleansing removes the skin's natural moisturizers.

2. Limit the use of hot water and soap. Don't take long, hot showers. They may sound appealing, but they strip skin of its natural moisturizing lipids. Instead, take a short, warm shower with a non-irritating, non-detergent-based cleanser.

3. Moisturize your skin daily. Use an emollient every day. Whether it's a moisturizing lotion, baby oil or petroleum jelly, use what's best for you. Doctors recommend that you put on a good moisturizer while your skin is still damp. You will need a super-emollient lotion for hands, heels, or anywhere else you experience especially dry, cracked skin.

4. Defend skin from the harsh elements with regular exfoliation. This gets rid of dead-skin buildup, which can make skin look dry and dull, and it clears the way for moisturizers so they can be better absorbed.

5. A layer of sun-protective lip balm is all it takes to prevent chapping. Lips have no natural oil, so they need that extra bit of care.

6. Continue to protect your skin from sun damage. Autumn and winter sun can be as dangerous for the skin as summer sun. It can lead to premature aging of the skin and skin cancer. Try to wear a makeup or moisturizer with SPF 15 on your face throughout the season.

7. If there's debate about how much water you need to drink, there's no question that being dehydrated affects your skin. Aiming for eight glasses a day makes sense for general health, skin included. If it's more than you need, your body will eliminate the excess. Also, avoid extremes with food. Diets severely lacking in protein or fat can turn skin dry and flaky.

8. Humidify indoor air. Consider buying a humidifier, which will help keep skin and nasal passages from drying out.

9. Exercise. For skin with a healthy glow, 20 to 30 minutes of aerobic exercise three times a week is recommended.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)



## How to dance without your body popping

By Chu Meng

All that skipping about looks effortless doesn't it? Well, you don't know the half of it. Us dancers are constantly plagued by little tweaks and pulls – even when we're dancing alone. Injuries are the bane of any dancer's life. Here is gym coach Zang Tianyu from the Four Season Fitness Center to give you some tips on injury prevention. "First of all, there is no 100 percent way of preventing injury, as we probably all know," he told me, while hopping around on one leg like some kind of abstract cockerel. "But there are a few golden rules to remember." I pulled up my leg warmers and got ready to get it on.

1. **Warming up.** Warming up should bring blood into your muscles and ligaments. Ever found an elastic band that has been left around too long? Try stretching it or rubbing it a bit.

2. **Stretching.** Muscles that are not used to being stretched regularly will react badly if you ask them to lengthen suddenly whilst dancing. Therefore regular stretching is part of injury prevention, not as a preparation for dancing, but as a separated activity. When they are done regularly, not just in the five minutes before dancing, they will help lengthen your muscles in the long run.

3. **Your body is a system.** The body parts work together responding to your brain. And weaknesses in one part of your body can affect other parts of your body. Foot weakness can lead to shin splints, knee problems or backache. Learn to understand that when one muscle contracts, another has to lengthen and give way.

4. **Speaking of systems, your body is like a machine.** The better you fuel it the better it will work. Nutrition is part of injury prevention. Get a healthy balanced diet, and give your body the energy reserves it needs before going to a dancing class.

5. **Muscle fatigue.** Muscles that are tired, shaky, heavy or cramping are tired. And tired muscles have fantastic chances of getting injured. Give them a break.

6. **Shoes.** Shoes can make or break a dancer. Polima Semionova, a massive star in the ballet world has said: "80 percent of a dancer's success depends on the right shoe," and she's right. Get good shoes that were made with your feet in mind.



Fengdu is on the north bank of the Yangtze River, 172 kilometers from Chongqing. Known as the Ghost City since the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD), Fengdu is said to be the home of Hades (the Chinese king of hell). The autumn, in ancient Chinese eyes, is the season when many lives are taken away. Maybe we can find where they go in Fengdu.



Temple of Ghost Gate  
CFP Photos

# FENGDU—THE CHINESE GHOST CITY

## Mountains of ghosts and lives

Hades is said to live in **Ming Mountain** (Ming in Chinese means the world where dead people live). Its actual altitude is 287.3 meters and it covers an area of 0.45 square kilometers. Constructions related to Hades were built on the mountain, such as Hengha Ancestral Temple, Baoen Hall, Naihe Bridge, Wuchang Hall and Huangquan Road.

**Naihe Bridge** was built during the Yongle period of Ming Dynasty (1403-1424AD). It is 7.2 meters long, 2.5 meters wide, and

spans 3.3 meters. 'Naihe' comes from Sanskrit, meaning Hell. In legend, people have to go across the Naihe Bridge after death. There is a Gold Bridge on the left of Naihe Bridge and a Silver Bridge on the right. People who walk across the two bridges will become rich.

**Wangxiang Platform** is at the cliff of Ming Mountain. It is said to be the last place where dead people say farewell to their relatives. It was built in 1985. Visitors can overlook the city's panorama and the Yangtze River there.

You can also go across the iron

chain bridge, called Yinyang Bridge (the bridge connects the world of the living and the dead), between Ming and Shuanggui Mountain, then arrive in the living world, Shuanggui Mountain.

**Shuanggui Mountain** is 401-meters high and covers one square kilometer. It is a national forestry park, with green trees, streams and temples.

## Nantian Lake

**Nantian Lake** is 45 kilometers south east of Fengdu, in a forest of 100-square kilometers. The plants here are mostly virgin forest and bamboo. More than

1,300 plants and 120 kinds of animals live here.

**Niuqianxia Region** is the eastern entrance of Nantian Lake scenery region. There is a 150-meter-deep pit called Xiaoshiyuan Tiankeng and a 200-meter-high crag. **Shanshuping Region** is constituted of large regions of ferry. There is also a hippodrome in the region where visitors can ride horses. **Lucichi region**, covering three square kilometers, has a single lake – Nantian – covering around 2,000 square meters.

## Long River drifting

Long River is a branch of the

Yangtze River. Floating along the river, the scenery often changes. Cliffs and green mountains line the two sides of the river.

There are a lot of limestone caves in the mountains at both riversides.

The most famous is **Xueyu Cave**. The stalactites in the caves are as white as snow. The **Xiannu Cave** and **Sanwang Cave** are also very beautiful. The waterfall is also a must see along the Long River.

The 12km boat riding takes about two and a half hours.

(By Zhang Nan)



Hades built on the mountain side



A distant view of the Ghost City



The bridge linking Ying and Yang worlds



The temple to heaven

## Tips:

### Ticket prices:

Ming Mountain: 80 yuan per person. Children under 1.2 meters for free. Student groups enjoy 50 percent off.

Nantian Lake: 20 yuan per person

River drifting: 99 yuan per person. Children under 1.2 meter for free.

Xueyu Cave: 70 yuan per person. Children under 1.2 meter for free. Students enjoy half price.

### Food:

Balsam pear and gristle soup: Cooked with balsam pear, gristle, medlars, red Chinese dates, and oysters, the soup is

light and helps reduce internal heat.

**Maouxuewang:** A famous spicy Chongqing snack. It is a kind of hot pot, containing pork, eel slices, ham, duck blood, and bean curd. The taste is thick and hot.

**Sanqutian liangfen** (bean-starch noodles): A famous snack in Sanqu Town, Chongqing. The bean-starch noodles are made from peas, served with vinegar, balm, gingeli, garlic, and capsicum oil.

### Accommodation:

Chongqing Hotel

Where: No. 235, Minsheng Road,

Yuzhong District, Chongqing

Tel: 023-6384 5888

Chongqing Taodu City Hotel

Where: No. 21, Xijiao Road, Yangjiaping, Chongqing

Tel: 023-6878 1818

Chongqing World Traders Hotel

Where: No. 118, Zourong Road, Yuzhong District, Chongqing

Tel: 023-6378 1111

### How to get to Fengdu:

By ship:

There are ships all the time from Chaotianmen wharf in Chongqing to

Fengdu wharf. It will take you six hours to get to Fengdu by ship.

You can telephone the customer service center for information on prices and times.

Tel: 023-6384 1342

By coach:

The coach from Chongqing to Fengdu leave every hour from Chaotianmen station. The ticket price is 53 yuan.

Tel: 023-6373 6778

(By Zhang Nan)



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# HANOI

## LAID-BACK ELEGANCE

### History:

Vietnam was born among the lagoons and marshes of the Red River Delta around 4,000 years ago, and for most of its existence has been ruled from Hanoi.

In 1887, the French turned Hanoi into the government for the

entire Union of Indochina, replacing ancient monuments with grand colonial residences, many of which survive today.

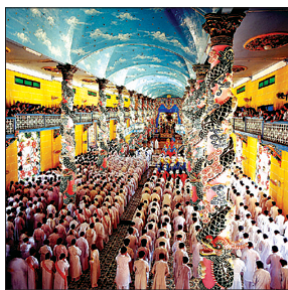
Hanoi became the capital of independent Vietnam in 1954. The city sustained serious damage in the Vietnam War,

particularly the famous Christmas Bombing campaign in 1972, much of which is lucidly chronicled in the Army Museum.

Until recently, political isolation, together with lack of resources, helped preserve what was essentially the city of the 1950s.



Vendors selling fruit to tourists



Practising religion



A riverside scene

### Attractions:

#### One Pillar Pagoda

The One Pillar Pagoda is an architectural gem unique to Vietnam. It was first constructed in 1049 during the early Ly dynasty. King Ly Thai To dreamed of the goddess Quan Am sitting on a lotus leaf and offering him a son. Struck by the dream, the Emperor married a peasant girl who soon provided him with a male heir. In gratitude, the king built this pagoda which resembles a lotus climbing out of the water.

The pagoda was destroyed a number of times, most recently in 1954 during the French Colonial retreat, but was reconstructed in 1955 with a concrete pillar.

Where: Chua Mot Cot Street, Ba Dinh District

#### Temple of Literature

The Temple of Literature (Van Mieu), dedicated to Confucius, was founded in 1070 by Emperor Ly Thanh Tong.

In 1076, Vietnam's first university was established here to educate Vietnam's administrative and warrior classes. Recent archaeological study indicates that the architecture belongs to the Ly (1010-1225) and Tran (1225-1400) Dynasties. The complex is in a tranquil park-like site in the center of Hanoi. The progression is essentially axial from the entrance gate to the central temple sanctuary.

Where: Phu Loc Town, Khanh Hoa Province

#### Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum

Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum is one of the most important and visited sites. A pilgrimage site where 'respect' and 'reverence' are the key words. You can see a video and then the embalmed body of Ho Chi Minh in a glass coffin, dressed in khaki and rubber shoes. You won't be allowed in unless you're dressed appropriately (no T-shirts or shorts) and cameras/bags are

best left in hotel.

Where: Ba Dinh Square, Ba Dinh District

Open: 7:30am-10:30am in winter and 8am-11am in summer

#### Hoan Kiem Lake

Hoan Kiem Lake is in the middle of Hanoi. Its name means 'The Lake of the Restored Sword', referring to a 15th century legend in which the nobleman Le Loi, who fought against Ming China, received his sword from a magic turtle living in the lake. The nobleman defeated the Ming and returned home in victory. One day, the emperor was boating in the lake when the turtle surfaced demanding the sword's return. In memory of this event, the emperor built the Tortoise Tower. Turtles still live in the lake today. When they are spotted, it is supposed to herald the death of one of the country's leaders.

Where: Center of Hanoi

(By Jackie Zhang)



Vietnamese women working in the rice fields

### How to get to Hanoi:

Hanoi Noibai Airport is 40km north of Hanoi. Many airlines are serving here, including China Airlines, Air France, AirAsia, Japan Air Lines, Malay-

sia Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Singapore Airlines, and Thai Airlines.

If you are in China, you can go to Hanoi by train or bus from Nanning, capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autono-

mous Region in southern part of China. This is only 400 kilometers away from Nanning to Hanoi.



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A Hanoi fishing harbor

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**Ma Jun got a Master's degree in Chinese from Beijing Normal University. He got offered a full-time job as a reporter and editor on the news section in March after doing a two-month internship.**



I mostly do investigative reports. Some people say that investigative reports are dangerous and difficult. But when you are doing a report, you are under pressure to finish it and have no time to think about those kinds of things. I was very pleased with my report on Guo Degang, *China's best-known comic dialogue actor*. Ma Jun wrote a story that revealed the illegality of a weight loss advert that Guo worked on. The report infuriated the crooks who made the advert. They sent a group of 20 black suited men armed with truncheons to the Youth Weekend office to hunt down Ma Jun

just days after the report was published.

It is lucky that I was not at the office that day. I uncovered the truth and the man behind the scheme could not get to me legally so he tried to get to me in his own 'special way'. My editor had picked up on the story and had asked me to do an in-depth investigation for the next issue. He knew that if I managed to stand it up it would be a sensational story. The more I got involved, the more complicated it became and the more holes I found. There were lots of irregularities. I spent a lot of time working on the story and at times it was even a little dangerous but I felt a great sense

of achievement when the story was published.

After the thugs were sent around to the office my boss told me to stay at home for a week and urged me not to go out often. He also advised me to change my mobile phone number.

I was destined to be a journalist. It can be tiring and painful but I prefer this way of life to a life of repetition. I never know what will happen next, what I will experience next and whom I might interview.

**Wang Jin:** When I take on a journalist for the news section, what I pay most attention to is the candidate's practical ability rather than their resume or educational background. There are far more female journalists in the industry nowadays. Most of the male applicants fail our writing examination. And a lot of them, even if they get the internship, give up because they are not earning enough. Ma Jun was one of the few male applicants to get to the face-to-face interview stage and who performed well as an intern. Take Guo Degang's story as an example. The story was just about to go to print when our editor decided it needed to be added to. Ma went straight to the Beijing Drug Administration to get a quote from them. This showed his dedication to the job.

By Han Manman

*Youth Weekend* is billed as 'China's smallest newspaper'. It was once one of the best-known rags in Beijing. After a long period of preparation, the newspaper was re-launched earlier this year. The newspaper's content is a mix of original reporting, in-depth follow-up stories from daily newspapers across the country, hot topics among netizens and popular articles from website forums and blogs. The following three interviewees are the first group of new Youth Weekend employees. They were all taken on after completing a two-month internship. Deng Yanling and Ma Jun work in the news section and Chen Qimei in the features section.

# Youth Weekend:

## The pain and joy of being a hack



**Deng Yanling got a Master's degree in journalism from the Central University for Nationalities. She was offered a full-time job as a reporter and editor on the news section in March after doing a two-month internship.**

I didn't have any previous media work experience before coming here. I majored in physics and worked as a physics teacher for two years after graduating from university.

But I've always been really interested in newspapers, especially reading in-depth reports.

When I read in the newspaper that our district government news center had some vacancies, I jumped at the chance and applied straight away. I got an offer after coming top in the entrance examination. Unfortunately, the news center was more like a mouthpiece of the government and, after working there for three years, I realized that what I was doing was not really news.

I'd wanted to work in journalism for many years but I

had little understanding about real news before I came to *Youth Weekend*. The newspaper is divided into the news pages and the feature pages and I chose to work on the news pages to begin my journalistic career. I spent most of my time interviewing people. The more I worked as a reporter, the more I loved it. Being a journalist, you have to keep a clear mind and keep abreast of what is happening in a changeable society.

A weekly newspaper is different from a daily newspaper. As a daily newspaper reporter, reporting the news is pretty straightforward. You just find out what is happening and write it down. But working for a weekly newspaper requires that you write in-depth stories. It requires you to get involved in the story and to analyze the whole issue. You need to find the cause, pay attention to the society's response and find out the ultimate effect and even the effect on people's thinking and lives. You need to tell the reader what the truth is and how to think about it. You also have more chance to interview the key people involved in the

story. Sometimes, you are the first person to find out the real reason behind the issue.

My first news report was to follow up a story about the crowds of people on the pedestrian overpass at Beijing railway station at the end of last year. The 100 meter long overpass takes 10 minutes to walk over. My editor asked me to find the cause of the crowding and the possible solution to the problem. Although the station area has been afflicted with this problem for years, no practical solution has been found for it. I was thinking about interviewing traffic coordinators and citizens living there. I thought that, as well as complaints, they might come up with some good ideas for how the problem could be solved. If I could find some good solutions and include those in the story, it would be a small contribution to society. I came to the station and interviewed the coordinators, policeman, the station staff and some citizens. Although my editor polished the story and cut a lot, when it got into the newspaper my chief editor was very pleased. He said I was willing to put much time and effort into the news report and he praised me for being proactive. That was an important reason for him offering me the job.

I have learnt a lot working here. Tomorrow will be a totally unpredictable day for me. Lots of women my age want to have a stable life, but that is not the life I want. I want to experience more and have more challenges. There are too many things I haven't learnt or seen.

In the *Youth Weekend* interview, the interviewer asked me what my strong points were. I thought for a while - I don't have special skills and my writing is very average, even if I had majored in news. I just spent most of my time online. So, I said my strong point was surfing the Internet. At the following newspaper page layout examination, I also designed various pages based on the website. When I started my internship, my editor asked me to plan for some pages connected with the website. It just happened that *Youth Weekend* was looking for someone familiar with the Internet and who could find interesting things on it, so it turned out that my hobby helped me get the job.

When I first started at the newspaper I was really excited. I knew I was doing totally new work; the pages I was working on were very different to those in traditional newspapers. They were more fashionable, useful and eye catching. I was quite lazy before starting at



**Chen Qimei got a Master's degree in journalism from Lanzhou University. She got offered a full-time job as a reporter and editor on the features section in March after doing a two-month internship.**

the paper. I didn't like doing work. But at *Youth Weekend* I found myself cherishing the feeling of devoting my whole mind to the job. My boyfriend says I'm a completely different person when I'm working.

**Dong Xiaoying is in charge of the features section:**

I cannot remember Qimei's writing exam but I do remember her interview. As many of the story ideas in our features pages are based on websites, I was looking for someone with a good knowledge of the Internet. What I hoped for the pages was to cover all kinds of new trends, as they happen on the web. Qimei was the perfect candidate because she knew the Internet so well she could keep track of all the different trends. In her interview she said she was a typical web surfer, logging onto the Internet first thing in the morning.

Qimei does not see work as a task but as a hobby. At the same time she is very serious about the work she does

**Wang Jin is in charge of the news pages:** Yanling has a lot of work experience and life experience compared to some of the other journalists. She always considers things from a very rational angle, which is a good quality. She has a good interview technique and does her work very well. When we give her a task, she will always know what we want from her. We look for journalists just like her, someone with a strong personality and someone who is aggressive and brave enough to ask difficult questions.



Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley\_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

# My suggestion to the art festival



Liu Ting is a student of North China Teachers University of Mining Engineering.

By Liu Ting

I'm pretty cheerful that Students' Union of our university will hold an arts festival next semester. We are all aware that arts festival is bound to demonstrate characteristic style and features of college students. Hence, it is expected that it will be held splendidly. I am of the opinion that it is supposed to be on a novel, unique and creative basis. It goes with saying that the organizers are responsible for its careful and considerate preparations. For this reason, I have several sincere suggestions as follows:

To start with, a vivid evening party which shows students' aptitude for art can be held. Considering that students are closely tired to their academic work every day and night, we will held a fresh and original party which surely

will lighten them up from tension. Another special consideration in this case is that we can launch some programs that serve to enrich the students' knowledge of art, such as arts lectures and exhibitions which are able to enrich their spiritual life. In this way, the arts festival will have a more enduring effect than ordinary festivals. At length, why not consider showing several brilliant and tempting movies and plays on arts, which can definitely enhance students' aesthetic ability, making their college life rich and varied.

Overall, provided that the arts festival can be prepared well-designed and with more zest, it surely will be a great success and students can attain great benefit from it. I am looking forward to its coming and have a good time then.

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley\_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.



Photo by Guo Qian

## Time for a change

By Philip Space

hire ancient costume everybody a suite ten yuan

one minute get photograph common clothes

fifteen yuan ancient music costume twenty five yuan

It is hard to know where to begin with this sign, spotted outside a Beijing costume shop by one of our readers last week.

The attempt at English is so dire I had to ask a Chinese colleague to translate the Mandarin for me so I could work out what it was going on about. The sentence structure is muddled, the grammar is non-existent and the spelling is all over the place.

In the first line, 'hire a costume everybody a suite ten yuan', 'suite' should be spelt 'suit'. A 'suite' is something you would find in a hotel, for example, the bridal suite. A suit is what you wear. The whole line would be better written as follows: 'Hire an ancient costume for 10 yuan per person'.

In the second line there are two basic spelling errors. The first, 'fifteen' should be spelt 'fifteen', and the second, 'coutume', should be spelt 'costume'. The whole line would be better written as follows: 'A quick photo in a casual suit is 15 yuan and in an ancient costume 25 yuan'.



Photo by Yao Fa

## A slippery slope towards Chinglish

By Philip Space

Caution!

Slope slippery when wet

The English on this sign, spotted in a Beijing park, is not bad but it could be better.

'The' should precede 'slope' in the second line and a verb should be inserted between the words 'slope' and 'slippery' so that the sentence reads 'The slope gets slippery when wet'.

## Ted Lawson Replies



Dear Liu Ting,

Arts festivals...I love them and it seems that you're pretty enthusiastic about your school's production. Let's take a look at your document and see how we can spice that up a bit. Your message is very clear, no problem there, but your choice of language as well as your style is somewhat formal, stilted, at times awkward... First paragraph is great, a few suggestions: '...it will be held splendidly,' why not try 'it will come off splendidly,' the latter referring to the execution of the event. A party is held many ways, but not usually 'splendidly'. Secondly, 'it goes with saying,' I'm not sure if that is a typo on your part but the correct form should be 'it goes without saying,' which implies that it is unnecessary to mention. In the last sentence of the paragraph you begin with 'At length,' which I think can be omitted as you need no introduction for your suggestions.

The second paragraph follows the established layout of introduction, body, and conclusion. 'To

start with...' a good clear introduction, your suggestions follow quite smoothly, simple, easy to understand, good work. Again I see what appears to be a typo in '...students are closely tired to their work.' I think you mean 'tied' but the unintentional pun is amusing, for it's a fact that students are made tired by their work. The sentence ends with 'we will held a fresh and original party.' There is a problem here with the use of future tense, considering that the purpose of this paragraph is to provide some suggestions, perhaps a better structure would be, 'we should hold a...' or else 'we might hold' or even 'we could hold,' all three of these examples suggesting possibility rather than a definitive action implied in the use of 'will.' The rule is, select a tense and keep to it throughout the work. In this case 'could' would be the correct substitution for 'can.' There is an unnecessary repetition in your explanation of 'special considerations' which you correctly explain as 'enriching students' knowledge of art,' but which

you again restate at the end of the sentence as 'enrich their spiritual life.' You might try combining the two ideas as in 'we could launch some programs that serve to enrich both the students spiritual life as well as their knowledge of art.' 'In this way, the arts festival will have a more enduring effect than ordinary festivals,' here you are attempting to draw a distinction between THIS festival and other festivals, which you need to make clear with the use of the word 'this.' As far as the choice of language with respect to 'a more enduring effect,' although your intention is clear, the language is awkward, you might want to try something along the lines of '...making this a most memorable festival occasion.'

'Overall, provided that the arts festival can be prepared well-designed and with more zest, it surely will be a great success and students can attain great benefit from it. I am looking forward to its coming and have a good time then.' A nice inclusion in your last paragraph about your own excitement

for the festival, but the structure seems a little odd, a little clumsy. Why not begin the paragraph with a solid personal presence as in with the use of 'I.' 'I is a key idea in western thought and it's a word that Chinese learners approach cautiously. No need to fear it though, it holds great authority and serves as an anchor to your composition, as in: 'I'm really looking forward to the coming festival and to the good times I hope to have...'

This is a really great piece in that you've got some strong suggestions for the festival organizers. It is very clear through your writing that you are passionate about the arts and that you would like to see that passion reflected in the festivals production. Relatively speaking you have few errors and minor ones at that. The overall concern would be with the tone and style of your writing, which is at times too formal, perhaps a little stiff. Loosen up! Enjoy the writing as much as you enjoy the festival!

Ted

## Confused Da Long

Words by Chen Shasha; Pictures by Lao Du

Hi, I'm Da Long, a smart boy living in Beijing and I've just started learning English. I'm trying to get everyone around me to speak English as well. But, the problem is, I always get confused by people's reactions to my English. Can you tell me why?



If you hear of any interesting chinglish stories, feel free to contact us at Shirley\_chen@ynet.com.



## Friday, September 8

### Exhibition

#### Li Fuyuan Solo Exhibition



Where: Melodic Gallery, 14 Jianguomenwai Street, opposite Friendship Store, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-4:30pm, until September 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6515 8123

#### Pan Ying Solo Exhibition

Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue, River-ville Square, No 1 District One, Tianzhu, Shunyi

When: Daily 10am-10pm, until September 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

### Movie

#### The Green Hat

When a desperate hostage-taker poses the unexpected question "What is love?" to a middle-aged police inspector, the latter finds his own marriage and sex life open to unflinching



scrutiny. It's a remarkably candid tragicomedy.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liang-maqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 8pm, until September 9

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745

### Music

#### CJ

A founding member of the British rock band the Wildhearts, CJ performs a solo show.

Where: Yugong Yishan, No 1



Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang

When: 10pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6415 0687

## Saturday, September 9

### Exhibition

#### Guo Binbin & Zhao Lixian's Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6:30pm, until September 27

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122, 13911166261

### Japanese Artists' Group Exhibition



Where: Wan Fung Art Gallery, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until September 17

Admission: Free

Tel: 6523 3319

### Yang Shaobin Solo Exhibition

Where: Long March Space, Space B, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until October 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 7107

### Outdoor

#### Overnight excursion: Zhengding & Yujia Stone Town

Where:

Explore by coach two historical townships near Shijiazhuang city, capital of Hebei: Zhengding and Stone City

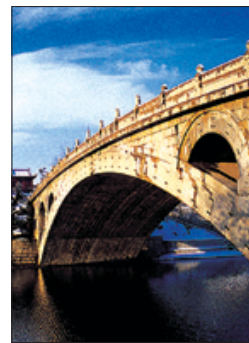
When:

Meet at the Chinese Cul-

ture Club (CCC) at 8:30am Saturday and return to CCC at 6:30pm Sunday

Cost: 1,100 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341



## Sunday, September 10

### Exhibition

#### One Work

A collaboration by artists Zhang Guoyu, Chen Zaiyan and Sun Qinglin.

Where: Taikang Top Space, 11/F Taikang Life Building, No 156 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Call for times, until September 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6642 9988 ext. 8302, 13801326510

### Miao Xiaochun Exhibition



Where: White Space Beijing, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 12pm-6pm,

until October 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2054

### The Dawn of Meaning

The works of Chinese artists Li Fan, Liu Xiaocheng, Wang Zhiyuan, Gao Xiaowu and Ye Xue, and Japanese artists Teruya Yuken, Sakagishi Yoshiou and Yoshida Gyoko.

Where: Beijing Tokyo Art Projects, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6:30pm,

until October 8

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

### Movie

#### Pierrot le Fou

Pierrot escapes his boring society and travels from Paris to the Mediterranean with Marianne, who's being chased by Algerian hit men.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of

Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang

When: 6pm, until September 13

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



## Stage in October

### Dance

#### Russian Cossack State Dance Company's debut in Beijing

Who: Russian Cossack State Dance Company

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 1-2

### Opera

#### Così fan tutte, Opera Buffa in Two Acts

Who: Piccolo Teatro di Milano

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street,

Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 8-9

#### Nose, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Century Theatre

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 13

#### La Traviata, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Teatro la Fenice

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 29

### Music

#### Grand opening of the 9th Beijing Music Festival

Who: Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 2-3

#### Maurizio Pollini Piano Recital

Who: Famous Italian Pianist Maurizio Pollini

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street,

Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 4

#### A Night of Russian Music

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 6

#### Dmitri Shostakovich Song Cycle

Who: Dmitri Shostakovich

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 10

### Paul Badura-Skoda Recital

Who: Paul Badura-Skoda

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 15

### BBC Symphony Orchestra Concert

Who: BBC Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 24-25

(By Qiu Jiaoning)